MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 MARCH 1983

Nonaligned Summit Conference

Following the Iraqi president's decision not to personally attend the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference in New Delhi, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i likewise announced that he will not participate in the conference. In a message to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, broadcast by Tehran radio, Khamene'i said he was obliged to change his plans to attend "for certain reasons" and send Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi instead to head the Iranian delegation. Other Middle East heads of state who will not personally attend the conference include Saudi King Fahd, Moroccan King Hassan II, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri and Omani Sultan Qabus, according to reports by SPA, MAP, SUNA and Muscat radio. Indicating that Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi will also not participate, JANA reported that Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud arrived in New Delhi to attend the conference. The Lebanses delegation will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for talks on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, Beirut radio said. 'Arafat will also meet with Jordanian King Husayn, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing an informed source in Amman.

The nonaligned foreign ministers adopted the Fes Arab summit peace plan during their presummit meetings and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed hope that the summit conference will also adopt the Arab plan, according to Riyadh radio reports. Meanwhile, Damascus radio noted that Syria has submitted a working paper on the Middle East conflict and MENA reported that Egypt has submitted proposals for the conference to adopt a tough stance against Israeli settlement activity. Iran has proposed an amendment warning against the influence of superpowers in the Nonaligned Movement and will support Libya's candidacy to host the eighth nonaligned summit, the Iranian foreign minister announced in remarks reported by IRNA.

The flurry of presummit diplomatic activity included meetings between the Egyptian and Iraqi foreign ministers and between Indian Prime Minister Gandhi and DRA Prime Minister Soltan Ali Keshtmand, according to MENA and Kabul radio respectively.

In another development, an Iranian Foreign Ministry official denied reports that an Iranian plane which landed at Delhi international airport contained armed commandos, IRNA reported.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat Remarks, Activities -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat has announced his desire to participate in peace negotiations which all parties would join without preconditions, according to an interview with 'Arafat broadcast by London Independent Television on 6 March. 'Arafat also complained that the Americans are "neglecting the PLO completely" and said he is ready to talk about everything "when they are ready to discuss with me."

Before traveling to New Delhi to attend the Nonaligned Summit Conference 'Arafat held talks with Saudi leaders in Riyadh, according to SPA reports. 'Arafat briefed King Fahd on the results of the Palestine National Council meeting, Riyadh radio noted.

Deadlock in POW Exchange Talks -- Negotiations between the PLO and "the Zionist entity" for an exchange of POW's are deadlocked and have stopped, a responsible Palestinian source announced in a statement reported by Baghdad Voice of PLO Radio.

Carter Meeting -- Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter conferred with PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani on 6 March, Radio Monte Carlo disclosed on 7 March citing a reliable source in Cairo. The source explained that the U.S. Embassy in Cairo had arranged the meeting.

Egypt

Relations With Soviet Union -- Egypt and the Soviet Union have agreed to exchange ambassadors in order to promote bilateral relations, MENA reported on 5 March citing the paper AL-JUMHURIYAH. The agreement follows Egypt's receipt of an important message from the Soviet leadership, delivered by Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Nikolay Baybakov during his 2 March Cairo airport stopover, AL-JUMHURIYAH said.

Mubarak on PLO -- While Egypt will never abandon the Palestinian people it will not allow the establishment of a Palestine radio on its territory, President Husni Mubarak asserted at a 5 March National Democratic Party meeting in a speech reported by MENA. Mubarak expressed regret over the accusations leveled against Egypt by the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers.

Lebanon

Comment on Negotiations -- U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib left for Washington "emptyhanded" since Israel "for the time being" rejects his proposals that the security arrangements in southern Lebanon preclude a fixed Israeli presence in the area, Jerusalem radio reported on 6 March. Nevertheless, Israeli leaders have adopted a more flexible policy toward the negotiations and may not insist on the establishment of observation posts in southern Lebanon, according to Jerusalem television. Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir likewise said in a 4 March IDF Radio interview that Israel is prepared to examine alternative proposals on security arrangements, adding that no proposal, "even if made by us," is sacrosanct. Deploring the present lack of high-level Lebanese-Israeli contacts, Shamir said Lebanon's contacts with Arab countries hinder the establishment of good relations between Israel and Lebanon. Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim meanwhile told U.S. newsmen that Lebanon is not going to close 22 borders in order to open 1 border, according to remarks braodcast by Voice of Lebanon radio.

More on Ba'labakk Incident -- Six Lebanese Army men were killed and 12 were wounded in the 4 March attack on an Army unit south of Ba'labakk, Voice of Lebanon radio announced in an update on the incident. The Lebanese authorities arrested three men in connection with the attack and issued arrest warrants for others, including the local Shi'ite Amal group leader, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

West Bank

Unidentified assailants fired at an IDF camp in Samaria on 5 March but caused no casualties, Jerusalem radio reported. Earlier, the PLO General Command claimed that Palestinian fighters killed or wounded several Israelis in a 2 March ambush of an IDF vehicle on the Janin-Nabulus highway, according to a communique broadcast by Aden Voice of Palestine radio. MA'ARIV said a grenade was thrown that day at an Israeli settler's car but missed its target.

Iran

U.S. police raided Iran's Washington mosque on 5 March, occupied it and arrested the mosque's Friday imam, Tehran radio reported on 6 March. Commenting on the raid, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that despite America's claims of democracy it cannot tolerate a mosque that wishes to act freely, another radio report noted.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn warned Tehran that any further attack on Iraq would be doomed to failure and that the attacking force would be "completely annihilated," INA reported on 5 March citing Husayn's message to the Iranian peoples. He added that if the Iranian rulers had shouldered their responsibilities they would have accepted peace; however, since they left the "mainstream of legitimate leadership" it is therefore the responsibility of all Iranians to cooperate closely to rescue Iran from its destructive ordeal.

An explosion in the Air France office on 5 March seriously wounded the office's director, INA announced on 6 March citing an Interior Ministry source. The source added that the security forces defused another explosive on 6 March in the Kuwaiti Airlines office.

Oil Affairs

Eight OPEC oil ministers made "some progress" during 3 March talks in London aimed at securing a new consensus on oil prices and output, OPECNA announced on 4 March. IRNA and WAKH subsequently reported that Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi and Qatari Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani left their respective countries to attend the 7 March OPEC Consultative Ministerial Council Meeting in London.

In a 4 March speech broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi asserted that the current talk about an oil price war is a "conspiracy" launched by the region's "reactionary" leaders to bring down the oil price and exert pressure on Iran. He affiremd that these "plots" can neither affect the outcome of the war with Iraq nor Iran's "revolutionary" decisions.

Algerian-Soviet Relations

The Algerian-Soviet State Committee on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation signed a draft agreement in Moscow on 4 March, Algiers radio reported. The Soviet side agreed to provide a state loan to Algeria to cover expenditures for the construction of railroad installations in the western section of the high plateau, the radio added.

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'ARAFAT ON REAGAN PLAN, NEGOTIATIONS, JORDAN

LD061511 London ITV Television Network in English 1200 GMT 6 Mar 83

[PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat interviewed by Robin Paxton at 'Arafat's house near Algiers on 23 February -- recorded; presented on the "Weekend World" program moderated by Brian Walden]

[Text] [Question] Mr 'Arafat: One of the most important discussions you've had at the Palestine National Council this week has been about the Reagan plan. It's caused a lot of disagreement but in the end a resolution was passed saying that you refused to consider the Reagan plan as a sound basis for a just and permanent solution. That sounds to most people like a rejection but it's been suggested that it's not a rejection, that the door is in fact open still. So can I ask you directly, first of all, do you completely reject the Reagan plan?

[Answer] You've got to remember that I have been elected according to these political points, this particular program and what have been declared is that the Reagan plan had ignored completely the international legality, the United Nations resolutions and also, especially, the rights of the Palestinians, especially the right to regain back to their homeland, their right for self-determination, and their right to establish their independent state. And I am very astonished how the American administration can ignore the self-determination for 5 millions Palestinians while at the same time, in the same period they accept self-determination of 1,800 of the Falkland Island people. How can this be accepted? Self-determination is a sacred right for every people, for every nation. And it is of the principles upon which the, the, the mentality or the, the American nations has been established upon. [sentence as heard]

[Question] I understand exactly what you're saying and it was very clear at the conference that there was considerable opposition to the terms of the Reagan plan but you'll forgive me if I ask you again. Is the Reagan plan absolutely rejected....

[Answer -- interrupting] We have sent the messages and they can understand it exactly in the secretary general of the United States. [as heard] He can understand what we have sent.

[Question] I wonder if I could put it to you this way, that what you are saying is that you do not like many of the terms of the Reagan plan but what you are perhaps interested in is the idea of American diplomacy or American involvement. What I am asking you....

[Answer -- interrupting] You know, they are completely ignoring the PLO. Why, the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people? We are full member in the Arab League, we are full member in the Islamic Conference, we are full member in the non-alignment countries movement, we have observer status in the United Nations, and in spite of that they are completely neglecting the PLO. So, if you have an official offer, I will reply you.

[Question] Which of course I don't have and therefore what I am asking....

[Answer -- interrupting] So in that case, let us pass it.

[Question] The only reason I keep asking you about the Americans is that I think that you have still not completely ruled out the possibility of discussions towards a solution that are in some way sponsored by the Americans....

[Answer -- interrupting] It is an offer? Again I am asking you. It is an offer?

[Question] No, it is a question about an offer.

[Answer] They are neglecting the PLO completely. Why you have to discuss about these matters? When they are ready to discuss with me, I am ready to discuss everything (?in this case). It is a message.

[Question] But it is a precondition.

[Answer] As you are asking me, including some messages in your questions, I am sending this message.

[Question] Without any previously established terms, on any conditions provided there is the recognition of the PLO.

[Answer] Without any conditions. Let us start all of us without any conditions.

[Question] Let us then turn to the future, a little bit. Can I ask you something about the relationship with Jordan? At your PNC, you passed a resolution which spoke about the possible future confederation between an independent Palestinian state and the Kingdom of Jordan. Now, in the shorter term, before that arrives, there is a question about King Husayn and his role in negotiating with the Americans at the present time and I think you have been involved in discussions with King Husayn yourself. Do you wish, would you be in favor of it and support it if King Husayn were to continue a process of negotiation with the United States President....

[Answer -- interrupting] Why not ask him?

[Question] I'm sure I should ask him but I am asking you whether you....

[Arafat -- interrupting] It is better to ask His Majesty, not me.

[Question] After the Reagan plan was announced, it has been suggested King Husayn might assemble a joint delegation, a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation....

[Answer -- interrupting] Let us wait and see.

[Question] For negotiations. Would that be something you would support?

[Answer] It seems that you are, have some official matters or are you speaking officially?

[Question] I am really just trying to explore....

[Answer -- interrupting] Or in this case....

[Question -- interrupting] What your position is.

[Answer] I haven't this information. When I have this information, I can reply this question.

[Question] Can I then just come back to where we began, finally, which was the question of the present American initiative and the comments that you have made about it. You have told me what you think of that initiative and what you think it ought to be like. Tell what you think will happen about the Reagan plan. Is the Reagan plan going to go ahead or is it going to come to a stop?

[Answer] You can ask the President, President Reagan, not me. It is his initiative, not mine, not my initiative. My initiative is the Arab initiative.

[Question] He will be able to answer that question better when he knows what you think.

[Answer] I am not sure. Are you sure of it?

[Question] I think it must be, your view of this must be important.

[Answer] If he is looking for my point of view, definitely he has to contact with me.

[Question] So you are unable to say at this point whether you think this may go ahead or stop.

[Answer] When will he send me his special envoy. I will reply this question.

[Question] Thank you very much indeed, Mr 'Arafat.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET CHARGE

LD041313 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis 4 Mar (TAP) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday received at the Palestinian leadership's headquarters the Soviet charge d'affaires in Tunisia. It has been learned that the charge handed the Palestinian leader a message from the Soviet leadership in connection with the latest developments of the situation in the region.

PLO-ISRAELI POW NEGOTIATIONS 'DEADLOCKED'

JN061652 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has stated that the negotiations being held between the PLO and the Zionist entity through the International Red Cross and the good offices of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky on an exchange of POW's are deadlocked. The source said that the negotiations have stopped and that the PLO delegation had returned to Damascus. Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, said recently that the PLO would know within a few days the final date fixed for the exchange.

CARTER CONFERS WITH PLO FIGURES IN CAIRO

JN070608 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Mar 83

[Text] It has been learned from a reliable source in Cairo that former U.S. President Jimmy Carter yesterday conferred with PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqu ad-Dajani and Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser. The source explained that the U.S. Embassy in Cairo had arranged this meeting, the first of its kind between a former U.S. President and PLO figures. Former President Carter's Middle East tour will take him, in addition to Egypt, to Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

AFP: 13 NATIONS INVITED TO OPEC MEETING

NC041436 Paris AFP in English 1419 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] London, March 4 (AFP) -- All 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are to be invited to a meeting here on Monday afternoon, United Arab Emirates Minister Mani Sa'id al-'Utaybah announced here today.

The minister was speaking after a meeting of eight OPEC members here today and yesterday.

The eight participating countries -- Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Kuwait, Algeria, Libya, Indonesia, Nigeria and Venezuela -- were seeking a solution to the oil price crisis.

Absent were Qatar, Iran, Iraq, Gabon and Ecuador.

Oil Price Formula

LD041516 LONDON PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1439 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] A "summit" of some of the OPEC oil ministers agreed on a formula today for the reduction of oil prices, and production quotas which will be placed before the other members of the organisation in London next week.

The conclusion of the two day's of talks between the eight ministers was announced by United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, the first to leave the London hotel where today's session was held.

But he refused to reveal the nature of the formula to be presented to the other ministers before he was driven away in his Aston Martin car.

"On the two issues we reached an understanding" said Dr al-'Utaybah. "And there are encouraging signs that there will be an agreement. I can't tell you more."

"I am more optimistic now than I was earlier this morning. I think there is a better chance of an agreement," he said.

Today's session of talks lasted just over three hours but were carried on in the absence of representatives of two producers like Iran and Iraq.

Their representatives are expected however at Monday's full session.

OPEC DROPS SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH PROGRAM

LD061657 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1537 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, 6 Mar (KUNA) -- Sources in the Nonaligned Conference said here today that certain oil countries in OPEC have backed down on their support for financing a research program for alternative sources of energy.

These sources have informed KUNA that OPEC is backing away from support for such a proposal because of the financial situation created by the drop in oil prices. They also said that some OPEC countries are hesitant to support a proposal submitted to the IMF to finance a research program for alternative sources of energy in the developing countries by offering them easy loans to develop their own sources of energy.

THE OBSERVER ON POSSIBLE OIL AGREEMENT

LD061912 Kuwait KUNA in English 1711 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] London, March 6 (KUNA) -- Weekend negotiations between OPEC oil ministers in London are likely to lead to price and production level agreements at a formal meeting early this week, according to THE OBSERVER newspaper here Sunday.

The agreements would probably be based on four main points, the paper suggested.

Firstly, the price of the "marker" Saudi crude oil would be cut by up to 5.50 dollars to 28.50 or 29 dollars a barrel.

Secondly, the Nigerians, who unilaterally cut their oil price by 5.50 dollars to 30 dollars a barrel, would, "reluctantly, be allowed to get away with it."

Thirdly, "Iran, a major disruptive force in OPEC, will be lured into line with the offer of a two dollar discount for Iranian oil below the official OPEC price on the grounds of additional insurance costs arising from the war with Iraq."

Finally, OPEC would limit its overall production to 17.5 million barrels per day, with a "special arrangement for the coming quarter of the year to cut some of the glut out of the system," THE OBSERVER said.

Meanwhile, the paper went on, OPEC ministers were "cheered" by what they claimed were "firm commitments" from the British Government that it would not undercut OPEC prices.

Though Britain's public position was that it would not collaborate in any price fixing, both government and British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) officials "are understood to have given informal assurances that they will not be the first to cut prices again."

The paper quoted a senior official of BNOC, which sets the North Sea oil price, as saying that an OPEC agreement for a 28.50 to 29 dollar a barrel "marker" price would be "broadly acceptable."

He added that a "substantial number of oil companies" had already accepted BNOC's offer to reduce the price on higher quality North Sea oil to 30.50 dollars a barrel.

The rest of the companies were expected to follow suit once an OPEC agreement was reached, he noted.

KUWAIT

CABINET MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR

LD051847 Kuwait KUNA in English 1748 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, March 5 (KUNA) -- The Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn received at the Foreign Ministry Saturday the Ambassador of the Soviet Union in Kuwait Nikolay Sikachev.

Husayn told reporters following the meeting that the Soviet ambassador had briefed him on his country's stand toward the situation in Lebanon in general, and the Israeli demand to establish early warning stations in Lebanon in particular.

The minister added that the Soviet position toward that issue, as conveyed by the ambassador, shows that this demand would have a major impact on the Arab situation in general.

Husayn affirmed that Kuwait and the Soviet Union enjoy identical views on that subject.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM INDIA 5 MARCH

LD051238 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, returned to Riyadh early this morning from New Delhi after attending some of the meetings of the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference. The nonaligned foreign ministers began their meetings last Thursday in order to prepare for the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference which will begin meeting in New Delhi on Monday.

Prince Sa'ud expressed the hope that the Nonaligned Summit Conference will adopt the Arab peace plan. In a statement published today in AL-JAZIRAH and AR-RIYADH, Prince Sa'ud said that the Arab bloc has made a request to this effect. The Political Committee of the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference is now discussing it. He pointed out that the draft Saudi plan [words indistinct] was tantamount to mere plans and ideas to be discussed, and India has no objection to placing the Arab demand on the conference agenda.

On the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Prince Sa'ud said that the Islamic bloc hopes the Nonaligned Conference will adopt a formula compatible with the plans approved by the 3d Islamic summit conference, which was held at At-Ta'if. These plans aim at considering the Afghan issue as an independent self-contained issue which has no connection with other issues.

KING FAHD NOT IN DELEGATION TO NONALIGNED SESSION

LD061043 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1027 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Mar (SPA) -- Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, minister of information, announced that His Majesty King Fahd ibn Abd al-'Aziz will not be able to participate personally in the work of the Nonaligned Countries' Conference due to convene in New Delhi next Monday. The delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be headed by Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysai.

'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN SAUDI ARABIA 5 MARCH

GF051035 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Riayadh, 5 Mar (WAKH) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Riyadh today on a visit to Saudi Arabia. 'Arafat is scheduled to hold talks with senior Saudi officials dealing with the developments of the situation in the Arab region and with the Palestinian issue.

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD051615 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Mar (SPA) -- Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met this afternoon with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Discussions covered the current conditions in the Arab arena and a number of matters of interest to both sides.

'Arafat arrived in Riyadh earlier today on a visit to the Kingdom.

Meets With King Fahd

LD051826 Riyadh SPA in English 1640 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Mar (SPA) -- King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz this evening received at the Royal Palace Yusuf ar-Rahmah ad-Dusari, head of the amir's office in Bahrain, who delivered to him a written message from amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

Later King Fahd received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in the presence of Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister.

'Arafat-King Fahd Talks

LD052311 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat, said he briefed King Fahd on the results of the PNC sessions during his meeting with the king yesterday. He added that they also discussed the conditions of the Palestinians inside the occupied territories in light of the latest uprising against the Zionist enemy, the conditions in the south of Lebanon, and the suffering caused by the Israelis and Sa'ad Haddad's forces.

'Arafat also said in a press statement that his majesty the king affirmed full backing and support for the Palestinian people and their just cause, and affirmed the Kingdom's continued and firm commitment to support the Palestinian people and their struggle.

RIYADH COMMENTS ON ARAB HOPES FOR DELHI SUMMIT

LD051439 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Mar 83

[From the "Analyses" program by 'Abd ar-Rahman az-Zamil]

[Text] The Nonaligned Summit Conference, which will begin meeting in New Delhi on Monday, will discuss the Palestine question, the flagrant Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war, and the question of cooperation among the Third World countries.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will present its plans for these issues within the framework of the Arab bloc. The government of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has devoted all its efforts and capabilities to these issues. The Kingdom's active participation in the meetings of the Nonaligned Summit Conference stems from its faith in the idea of nonalignment and from its care for safeguarding both Arab rights and world peace, which is threatened by the Israeli enemy's irresponsible actions.

Under no circumstances whatsoever will the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia abandon its unceasing commitment to safeguard all Arab rights and to exert all of its efforts and devote all of its capabilities toward attaining this objective. This is clearly evident from the responsible Saudi officials' insistence on expounding the just Arab views on their cause of destiny, and on crystalizing the Palestinian peoples' cause, not only before the two conferences of nonalignment, but also before the leaders of the entire world, in order to win further support for any measure to be taken to secure the restoration of the Arab rights, and to save it from the insulting people's tricks — as is happening in Jerusalem and the other occupied Arab territory, where the Israeli authorities daily impose arbitrary measures aimed at Judaizing the entire Palestinian land and eliminating its historical Arab character. [sentence as heard]

Crown Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has expressed his hope that the seventh conference of the nonaligned heads of states will succeed in adopting positive solutions to the various economic and political issues presented to them. He also expressed his hope that the Arabs will receive the same support this time that they received from the past summits, particularly with regard to the Palestine and Lebanese question. Prince Sa'ud has expressed these hopes in a statement he made to the joint delegation of Gulf news agencies. He affirmed that the political issues submitted to the Delhi Nonaligned Summit Conference reflect the importance of the conference as well as the importance of the conditions under which it is being held.

As to the Iraq-Iran war, Prince Sa'ud expressed his firm desire that the Delhi summit will become an effective tool for ending this destructive war which is claiming the lives of many innocent people. The long continuation of this war has harmed both countries' economies and development plans, and created new rifts in the Islamic world.

UAE

PRESIDENT RECEIVES PDRY CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

GF051130 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Mar (WAKH) -- President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The message was conveyed by PDRY Education Minister Hasan Ahmad as-Sallami during an audience with Shaykh Zayid today. The message included President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's thanks and gratitude to President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan on the good efforts which the UAE is exerting in order to develop fraternal relations between the PDRY and the region's countries. It also included means of reinforcing bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by chief of the president's office Surur ibn Muhammad and Education and Youth Minister Sa'id Salman.

AL-ITTIHAD ON LONDON OPEC MEETINGS, UAE POSITION

GF061201 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0814 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Mar (WAKH) -- Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, has affirmed the UAE's concern that OPEC emerge from its current crisis in a stronger position to defend the interests of the member countries, particularly during these hard times.

The Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD reported today that Shaykh Zayid was given a detailed report on the current OPEC meetings in London and has issued his directives to Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, the minister of petroleum and natural resources, who is now in London to present the UAE's view on various issues proposed for discussion during these meetings.

The newspaper said Dr al-'Utaybah has been having continued contacts with Shaykh Zayid to keep him informed of the outcome of the current meetings in London. He has also exerted intensified efforts to contact other OPEC ministers to invite them to come to London in order to brief them on the outcome of the consultations with other OPEC members.

Dr al-'Utaybah reaffirmed that the UAE's position is that an acceptable lowering of prices is inevitable as warranted by the current oil market and that there should be a production ceiling in view of the study carried out on the demand for OPEC oil.

The newspaper expects OPEC prices to be lowered $4.00 to $5.50 per barrel and a production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels per day.

The newspaper says that if Nigeria insists on lowering prices $5.50 per barrel, the ministers would either agree to lower prices $5.50 or not more than $4.50 per barrel. Regarding production quotas, they would probably be near those announced by OPEC members except for those of Iran, Libya, and Iraq, which will exceed the quotas which were set for them previously.

DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON ARMAMENT PLANS

GF051046 Doha QNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Dubayy, 5 Mar (QNA) -- Defense Ministry Under Secretary Colonel Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Ubayd al-Maktum has noted that the first group of the British Hawk planes for which the ministry signed a contract will arrive in the UAE in late March.

In a statement published in today's issue of the paper AL-BAYAN, he noted that the nationalist cadres of pilots are receiving intensive training on these planes, which will be used for the first time by the UAE Air Force. He pointed out that the UAE budget for this year increased by ten percent over last year's budget. He also stressed that the Defense Ministry has plans to develop, to complete, and to renovate all the armed forces' units, particularly the air defense force. He added: The tanks and the armored vehicles currently available in the UAE cover the UAE's needs for the time being. However, if the number of tanks and armored vehicles which are made in France and Italy is increased, the increase will be in the very same kind of tanks.

Concluding his statement, he said: We look forward to the day when the Gulf countries become one country on the political and military levels.

AGREEMENT REPORTED ON USSR AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE

NC050831 Cairo MENA in English 0818 GMT 5 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA) -- Egypt and the Soviet Union are in agreement on exchanging ambassadors between the two countries for the promotion of relations between them, says AL-JUMHURIYAH.

Egypt received an important message from the Soviet leadership setting forth definite ideas on relations between the two countries, AL-JUMHURIYAH's editor covering the New Delhi meetings reported.

The message was delivered by Soviet deputy prime minister Papikev [name as received; reference presumably to Baybakov] to assistant Foreign Affairs Minister Ash-Shaf'i 'Abd al-Hamid last Wednesday during a stop-over the Soviet official made at Cairo airport last Wednesday while on a flight to Ethiopia.

AL-JUMHURIYAH and AKHBAR AL-YAWM quote sources in the Egyptian delegation at New Delhi as saying that further contacts will be made between the two countries on the [sentence not completed]. In an interview with the London-published, Arabic-language magazine AL-MAJALLAH, reported by Al-AHRAM on its front page, Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said that there were no obstacles in the way of normalising relations between Cairo and Moscow.

Diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union have been below ambassadorial level ever since the Soviet ambassador left Cairo on September 15, 1981 in compliance with Egypt's decision. Egypt has had no ambassador in Moscow since December 6, 1977.

MUHYI AD-DIN ON NONALIGNED SUMMIT, USSR

NC041208 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0839 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] London, 4 Mar (MENA) -- In a statement to the Arabic-language, London-based magazine AL-MAJALAH that will be issued tomorrow, Saturday, Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din affirms the significance of the Nonaligned Summit Conference that will convene in New Delhi next Monday. He also affirms that Egypt is interested in the continuation of the "nonalignment" of the Nonaligned Movement.

He adds that there is still a great need for this movement in order to maintain world peace and to prevent the polarization of small countries by the big countries.

The prime minister expresses his hope that the New Delhi conference will be a big step. He also affirms that there are good signs which emphasize the possibility of realizing this hope, pointing to the recent Nicaragua conference as one of them.

Muhyi ad-Din calls on the Palestinian movement to take advantage of the international situation, and asks: If we miss this opportunity, when are we going to have it again?

In his statement to AL-MAJALAH magazine, the prime minister points out that the time and the international circumstances urge us to move within the framework of our commitment to the Palestinian issue. He says: We should be aware of these facts and hope that they will respond to our call.

Regarding Egyptian-Arab relations, Muhyi ad-Din points out that Egypt coordinates with the Arab states in many domains, particularly with regard to the Palestinian issue, which he describes as the "mother of all issues" because it is the core of the conflict in the area.

He adds: Egypt's contacts extend to all the Arab states with the exception of one or two and views are exchanged on many Arab issues, such as the Lebanese problem and the Iraq-Iran war.

He points out that Egypt supports Iraq with all of its arms and friendship, and describes Egyptian-Iraqi relations as genuine Arab relations.

Muhyi ad-Din affirms that there are no U.S. bases in Egypt and adds that there will never be any because we are absolutely not involved in any U.S. alliance or in any other alliance against a third party.

In his statement to AL-MAJALAH, Muhyi ad-Din adds: We are free, we own our will, we move the way we like, we hold friendships and make enemies within the framework of a specific interest and we always take into consideration that in the first place Egypt is part of the Arab nation.

On the resumption of relations with the Soviets, the prime minister says: We have always believed in balanced relations, which is desired. He points out that there are no obstacles hindering the resumption of relations with Moscow, but that the matter is still under discussion. He adds that it would not be good to follow the course of the past, pointing out that future relations should be based on noninterference in other countries' internal affairs and on full consultations and balanced relations.

On the Tabah issue, Muhyi ad-Din affirms that it has a great meaning to every Egyptian and that it should be restored, God willing. He states that to Egypt, Tabah is as large as the world.

MUBARAK, DELEGATION LEAVE FOR NEW DELHI 6 MAR

NC060636 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo for New Delhi this morning, where he will head the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Nonaligned Summit Conference which opens in the Indian capital tomorrow, Monday.

President Mubarak is accompanied by a delegation which includes Secretary General of the Presidency 'Izz ad-Din Mukhtar and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs.

The delegation will be joined in New Delhi by the Egyptian delegation which had participated in the meetings of the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference. This delegation includes Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, Ambassador Ra'uf Ghunaym, and Counselor Ahmad Abu Alghayt.

The president was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, and Consultative Council Chairman Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim. He was also seen off by Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz, Minister of Transport and Communications Sulayman Mutawalli, Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha, and the Indian Ambassador in Cairo.

NDP PAPER DENIES CABINET RESHUFFLE IMMINENT

NC062238 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2206 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA) -- Quoting what it describes as "the most reliable higher sources in the state," the weekly newspaper MAY affirms that there will be no leadership changes at this time.

MAY, the organ of the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP], adds in its edition for tomorrow, Monday, that so long as the 5-year plan is being successfully implemented, then the present government will remain in office or until the time comes when an assessment of performance with regard to the 5-year plan falls due.

The paper notes that the basic criterion for any future change is the extent of success or failure in the implementation of this plan, to which the state attaches great importance for the achievement of Egypt's aspired social and economic development.

The paper makes this affirmation in reply to recent rumors about an imminent Cabinet reshuffle or other changes in Egypt. The paper says that there are people who are spreading these rumors at home and abroad on the basis that they are reliable news. Even worse, some of these people are spreading these rumors outside Egypt, and then reiterating them personally inside Egypt to cause confusion in the hope of stopping the wheels of production from turning.

The NDP paper says that the affirmation by the higher sources in the state that there will be no changes provides the opportunity for stability and continuity, so that all the officials can discharge their duty while they are fully reassured.

MUBARAK CONGRATULATES NUMAYRI ON ELECTION

NC041502 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Mar 83

["Text" of message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri on the occasion of latter's election as leader of the Sudanese Socialist Union; date of message not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency Brother President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan:

I have received with great pleasure the report on your election as leader of the Sudanese Socialist Union. It pleases me most to convey to Your Excellency Brother my sincerest heartfelt congratulations on this dear trust given to you by our fraternal people in the south of the [Nile] valley. On this happy occasion, I would like to express my full confidence that the people of the Sudan, who have proved their outstanding capability of steadfastness against all plots and challenges hindering their progress, are capable by God's help and success of completing the march toward building a better society in which welfare and prosperity will prevail for all citizens.

The cohesion of the two peoples of the Nile valley positively reflects on their mutual interests and on the comprehensive Arab interests.

Please accept, my dear brother, my sincerest wishes for your good health, happiness, and success, and progress and advancement to your fraternal people under your wise and conscious leadership.

Your brother, Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

COMMUNIQUES ON IRANIAN BATTLE LOSSES 4-6 MARCH

Communique No 1,018

JN041650 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces killed 24 Iranians and destroyed 1 artillery piece and 4 vehicles during the activities carried out in the various operational sectors yesterday evening and today. Communique No 1,018, issued here tonight by the Armed Forces General Command, added that the Iraqi forces also destroyed three Iranian observation posts, one infantry position, and one hardware stockpile. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,018 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The war imposed on our proud people by the Khomeyniite rulers of Qom and Tehran today enters its 31st month, at a time when the people and armed forces of great Iraq are much stronger and more determined to fight the despotic enemy and achieve a decisive victory over it, God willing. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the Maysan operational sector, killing 12 and destroying 2 vehicles, 1 106-mm artillery piece, and 2 observation posts.

2. Our forward units sighted and pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions east of Basra, killing six and destroying two vehicles and one infantry position whose occupants suffered casualties.

3. One of our forward units opened fire on a group of enemy troops opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing six, and destroying one hardware stockpile and one observation post.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 March 1983

Communique No 1,019

JN051754 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Mar (INA) -- An Iraqi military communique released here tonight said that Iraqi forces have killed two Iranians, wounded others, and captured serviceable arms, equipment, and war materiel in the operational sectors. Communique No 1,019, which was issued by the Armed Forces General Command, noted that the Iranian enemy had shelled Basra and Mandali, causing some damage to a house and school in Mandali. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,019 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The glorious Iraqis continue to defend their sacred soil, sovereignty, and dignity against the venomous expansionist Khomeyniite onslaught. The following are the results for last night and today:

1. One of our forward units sighted an enemy troop concentration in the central operational sector, attacked it, and killed two, wounded others, and destroyed one hardware stockpile.

2. One hardware stockpile was destroyed east of Basra. One of our combat patrols seized arms and hardware in the same area.

3. Our combat patrols in the Maysan operational sector captured quantities of serviceable medium and light-caliber weapons as well as quantities of war materiel and equipment.

4. Using artillery, the spiteful Iranian regime, today shelled Basra and Mandali, damaging a house and school in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 March 1983

Communique No 1,020

JN061706 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA) -- The Iraqi forces today continued their actions in the military operational sectors against the Iranian enemy. Iraqi Military Communique No 1,020, issued here tonight, said that Iraqi combat patrols have found seven antitank guns, six mortars, and a number of rocket launchers, machineguns, and rifles, as well as other military equipment. All these are serviceable and abandoned by the enemy during the recent Ash-Shib battles. It added that today, the Iranian artillery shelled Mandali and Ash-Shihabi, causing some damage to civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,020 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With great confidence and complete conviction in scoring further victories over the enemy on land, at sea, and in the air, and with the determination to crush and destroy the rash, aggressive, Khomeyniite attempts, the forces of Saddam's glorious al-Qdisiyah are continuing their valiant actions in the operational sectors. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. During their activities opposite our positions in the Maysan operational sector, our combat patrols found seven antitank guns, six mortars of various calibers, and a number of rocket launchers, machineguns, and rifles, as well as various military equipment. All are serviceable and abandoned by the enemy during the recent Ash-Shib battles.

2. One of our forward units managed to kill one of the enemy opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield.

3. One of our combat patrols operating opposite our positions east of Basra found one enemy armored combat vehicle, which was evacuated to the rear. One enemy observation post was destroyed in the same sector.

4. The spiteful, vile, Khomeyniite clique today shelled the city of Mandali and the subdistrict of Ash-Shihabi, causing some damage to civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 March 1983

INA REPORTS EXPLOSION IN AIR FRANCE OFFICES 5 MAR

JN060753 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA) -- In coordination with the Iranian and Syrian regimes, suspect agent elements carried out a sabotage operation in the offices of Air France yesterday.

An Interior Ministry source told INA that an explosive charge went off yesterday morning in the offices of Air France on As-Sa'dun Street. He added that the director of the office was seriously wounded, several employees slightly wounded, and some office equipment was destroyed.

The source added that the security organs defused another explosive charge in the offices of Kuwait Airways today.

SALIM ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL, U.S. ROLE

NC041422 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] The Lebanese Foreign Ministry has been informed that U.S. presidential envoy Mr Philip Habib will be leaving Israel for California in the United States to make a scheduled speech before a club of 100 U.S. personalities. However, it is understood that Habib will return to Beirut at around the beginning of next week. Furthermore, the head of the U.S. side in the negotiations, Ambassador Morris Draper, will arrive in Beirut this evening to brief the president of the republic and the foreign minister on the results of the meetings that have been held in Israel.

At a news conference with American newsmen, Foreign Minister Dr Salim dealt with the U.S. mediatory role between Lebanon and Israel which is in favor of both countries at the same time, because each of these two countries is a friend of the United States. Salim explained that Lebanon's interest resides in the departure of all foreign forces from Lebanese territory and in the achievement of peace in this territory. He reaffirmed that Lebanese territory will not be a center for Palestinian moves, distinguishing between the two kinds of Palestinian presence -- a recognized presence and a nonrecognized presence, with the latter being greater in number than the former. The latter presence totals 300,000 people.

He added: Lebanon carefully looks after those whose presence is recognized within the framework of democratic freedoms and the law.

Minister Salim elucidated Lebanon's role and its position in the Arab group, saying: Lebanon is not a country to have a normal relationship with Isarel, because Lebanon is not normal, but sick. Consequently, we are not prepared to close our border to 22 Arab states to open this border to Israel -- and this also is not in Isarel's interest. What is first required, Salim said, is for Lebanon to recover and be in good health. Afterward, anything can be discussed.

Let us hear a recording of some of the remarks Minister Salim made:

[Begin Salim recording in English] [passage indistinct] to Israel, it is merely an incremental gain -- one among many. [In] this area, I must admit, we still have major difficulty. And we are not going to close 22 frontiers to open one frontier. It is not in the interest of Israel to force Lebanon to do things that Lebanon cannot survive. It is not in the interest of Israel to so weaken Lebanon as to be of no use to it in the Arab world. It is not in the interest of Israel to gain a presence from Lebanon, from a frustrated Lebanon, gains that a future evolving situation in the Middle East can give far more readily and far more peacefully than exacted by force from Lebanon. [end recording]

More on Salim Conference

NC041723 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today held a news conference attended by U.S. correspondents. He briefed them on the Lebanese position in the negotiations and on what Lebanon hopes from the United States through Ambassador Philip Habib's mission.

Asked about what U.S. presidential evnoy Habib has achieved, Salim said: When Ambassador Habib was in Lebanon, we reached an agreement with him on a text with U.S. support. He said the U.S. stand is not 100 percent on Lebanon's side, but it shows understanding of the Lebanese demands. Following his talks in Beirut, Habib left for Israel.

If he returns from Israel without any results, there will be great disappointment. I hope that Ambassador Morris Draper will bring constructive answers to Beirut today. At any rate, we will discuss with him the results of the talks Habib held in Israel.

On the difference between the Lebanese and Israeli views, Salim said the differences revolve around mutual relations between the two countries and points pertinent to security arrangements.

On the U.S. position on the points of disagreement, Salim said: There is no difference between Lebanon's views and the U.S. proposals. However, what I want to emphasize is that the Americans are playing the role of a mediator between the two sides, understand our position, and are convinced of what we are demanding.

On the fate of the negotiations with Israel, Salim said: Lebanon cannot establish normal relations with Israel, because 95 percent of our exports go to Arab markets. Israel must understand this and let Lebanon live. After that, agreement may be reached on other issues. Lebanon cannot close its borders to 22 countries and open them to 1 country, Salim added.

Salim Sees Negotiations' Progress

NC041838 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] In a statement to U.S. correspondents today, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim stressed that Lebanon has a right to independence and sovereignty and to follow its democratic values and pursue its own course in Middle Eastern and foreign policies. He voiced his hope that Lebanon will quickly regain its sovereignty. He considered the U.S. determination to solve the Middle East crisis through Lebanon as a sound course of action. He expressed Lebanon's appreciation to the United States for what it is doing for Lebanon, pointing out that the U.S. initiative will continue. He added: We have achieved a great deal of progress in the negotiations through the U.S. mediation efforts, which will eventually lead to positive results.

Salim said Lebanon believes that its sovereignty will only be achieved after the Israeli Syrian, and Palestinian forces depart Lebanon. He pointed out that Lebanon is not an occupying state and that we did not wage war against Israel. He asserted that Lebanon's stand for the withdrawal of all foreign forces is nonnegotiable.

Salim said Lebanon and U.S. envoy Philip Habib have reached agreement on a text on which the Lebanese and Americans agree and which enjoys U.S. support to a great extent. He added: I, however, believe that we have made progress in our talks with Habib. I will be surprised, or rather, shocked if Habib returns [from Israel] with an answer that has any negative aspects. He affirmed that Lebanon was very positive and adopted positions that guarantee Israel's safety as well as Lebanon's prestige and sovereignty. We could not achieve more than what we have with Habib. We are looking forward to reaching an agreement and I believe that the Israelis have no less a desire to reach an agreement. As a matter of fact, we are not very far from a reasonable ['aqlani] solution to the problem that must not be further exacerbated. We have achieved a great deal of progress and it would be very regrettable to regress.

Salim said the Lebanese state has taken all precautions to extend its sovereignty over greater Beirut.

On the position on the Palestinians, Salim said: We support the Palestinian cause by seeking to ensure Palestinian pride and feeling of identity. As for our stand on the Palestinian civilians, who total approximately 250,000 and are legally residing in Lebanon, the Lebanese Government is responsible for these people who are subject to Lebanese law and enjoy the state's protection.

AL-JUMAYYIL, DRAPER DISCUSS HABIB'S ISRAEL TALKS

NC042012 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil this evening met with head of the U.S. negotiating team Ambassador Morris Draper in the presence of Foreign Minister Salim and Ambassador Tuwayni at the republican palace. After the meeting, Draper said: I have come to Beirut to convey to President al-Jumayyil the results of the talks that Ambassador Habib and I held in Israel. We met President al-Jumayyil tonight and discussed these issues with him. Asked if the results were positive, Draper said: We discussed in depth what is going on.

OFFICIAL SOURCE ON REACTION TO ISRAELI STAND

NC050834 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] An official source has pointed out that Ambassador Morris Draper has submitted a full report on the intensive 3-day talks which U.S. envoy Philip Habib has had with the Israeli ministerial committee charged with the affairs of the negotiations with Lebanon and in which Draper has participated.

Draper told the Lebanese officials that Habib has left for California and will meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz today.

The source said that, during the working meetings between the Lebanese and U.S. sides last week, agreement was reached on several points while disagreement remained on other points. The source pointed out that all these points were discussed by the U.S. side with the Israeli officials, who reacted to them. The Israeli reactions were to points which are discussable and other points on which disagreement is still very deep.

The source said that during yesterday's meeting, Lebanon reacted quickly to the Israeli stand, and Draper communicated Lebanon's reaction to Habib, Shultz, and the White House at a later hour last night. The source expressed the opinion that in light of this communication, this situation will be discussed by Habib and Shultz today and that telephone contacts will take place tomorrow, Sunday, to determine the situation.

BEIRUT RADIO ON TRIPARTITE TALKS, U.S. STAND

NC050802 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] The tripartite Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations are awaiting a breakthrough and probably a miracle. We say this not out of pessimism but on the basis of the reality of the current situation and the continued Israeli intransigence and conditions which Lebanon rejects part and parcel as long as these conditions conflict with Lebanon's sovereignty, dignity, and legitimate national rights.

Therefore, the new thing that is expected to take place is: Either Israel will retreat from its position -- and there is talk at present about Israel giving up the demand for establishing early warning stations on Lebanese territory -- or Washington will change its policy by exerting subtle [khajul] pressure on Israel and will try to fulfill its pledges to Lebanon by various means and methods, of which the U.S. giant has plenty.

Perhaps the next few days will prove that Washington is earnest in what it believes and wants and that it is capable of achieving what it wants, especially when the objective is a right like Lebanon's right to liberate its land and homeland and regain its sovereignty, freedom, and dignity.

AL-JUMAYYIL LEAVES FOR NONALIGNED SUMMIT

NC070619 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 Mar 83

[Text] At 0230 today, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil left Beirut for India where we will head the Lebanese delegation to the Nonaligned Summit Conference, which will be held in New Delhi. The delegation includes Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, and Mr Jean 'Ubayd. The delegation also includes Brigadier General Nabil Quraytim, Brigadier General Munir as-Sarduq, Colonel Nabih Farhat, Colonel Munir Shihab, and Ambassador Hikmat 'Awwad, director of public relations and protocol at the Republican Palace. President al-Jumayyil and the accompanying delegation were seen off by the Indian ambassador to Lebanon, the Indian charge d'affaires, Army commander General Ibrahim Tannus, Information Ministry Director General Dr Manaf Mansur, general security Director General Zahi Bustani, and a number of senior officials and officers. President al-Jumayyil and the delegation accompanying him are expected to arrive in New Delhi at 1200 today.

BAHA' AD-DIN AL-BISAT NAMED ACTING PRIME MINISTER

NC070916 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Mar 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has appointed Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat, minister of water and electricity resources and housing and cooperatives, as acting prime minister and interior minister during the prime minister's absence abroad. He also appointed Justice and Information Minister Roger Shaykhani as acting foreign minister during the foreign minister's absence in New Delhi to attend the Nonaligned Conference.

AL-WAZZAN TO MEET AL-ASAD, 'ARAFAT IN NEW DELHI

NC061235 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, who will head Lebanon's delegation to the Nonaligned Summit Conference, will hold contacts in New Delhi with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad -- if President al-Asad heads his country's delegation to the summit -- and with [PLO Executive Committee Chairman] Yasir 'Arafat to coordinate action to bring about the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon and in order to deny Israel any excuse to delay its withdrawal by not expediting the withdrawal of the other forces -- that is, the Syrians and Palestinians. Prime Minister al-Wazzan's talks with the Syrian president will be a continuation of previous talks which the prime minister held in Damascus with President al-Asad and contacts held by President al-Jumayyil's envoy to Syria Jean 'Ubayd, who returned from a similar mission to Tunisia.

The talks with the PLO chairman will be a continuation of the meeting which took place in Tunis between Prime Minister al-Wazzan and 'Arafat last month.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD LEAVES FOR NONALIGNED SUMMIT

JN061505 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 6 Mar (SANA) -- President Mafiz al-Asad left for New Delhi today to attend the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference which will be held there between 7-11 March.

The president is accompanied by a delegation consisting of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Comrades Danial Ni'mah and Safwan Qudsi, members of the central leadership of the Progressive National Front.

Muhammad Khadir, the Syrian ambassador in New Delhi, will join the delegation.

INFORMATION MINISTER ON LEBANON, HABIB

JN051022 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] In an interview with the Lebanese magazine ASH-SHIRA', Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has stated that President Hafiz al-Asad met secretly with CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov after the funeral of late President Leonid Brezhnev. The minister, however, did not mention when and where the meeting took place.

On the other hand, Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad accused the United States of failing to honor its commitments on the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. He reiterated the call for the Israeli forces' unconditional withdrawal from the Lebanese territories. The minister stressed that if Israel attempts to attack the Syrian forces, Damascus will resist in Al-Biqa', Jabal Lubnan, or anywhere else. He said: We are determined to protect our independence, regain our occupied territories, and the Palestinian people's usurped national rights.

Concluding, the minister said that Syria is not opposed to receiving U.S. envoy Philip Habib when he expresses such a wish. He said that he knows nothing about Philip Habib visiting Damascus.

DFLP 14TH ANNIVERSARY RALLY HELD 4 MARCH

JN042105 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] held a rally at the Tishrin Hall in Damascus this evening on the 14th anniversary of its establishment. The rally was attended by Comrade Sulayman Qaddah, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and chief of the regional organizations bureau; a number of the Palestinian [Ba'th Party] regional organization's members; Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the PNC; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP; George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP; a number of PLO Executive Committee members; In'am Ra'd, leader of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement delegation; Hadi Ahmad Nasir, representative of the PDRY president; Muhammad Ghunaym, member of the Fatah Central Committee; a number of foreign diplomats in Damascus; and a large crowd of citizens.

The rally began with the Syrian and Palestinian national anthems. Those present observed a 1-minute silence in memory of the Arab nation's martyrs.

Speaking in the rally, Comrade Sulayman Qaddah stressed the DFLP's role of struggle and expressed hope that the DFLP anniversary would be an occasion to revise previous stands, prepare for more struggle, and speed up the revolutionary peace. He referred to the profound relations of struggle between Syria and the Palestinian revolution.

He said that the Syrian Ba'th Party commitment to the Palestinian problem is a fateful commitment. Qaddah added that it was from Syria that the first Palestinian bullet was fired, adopting the method of armed struggle as a means of confronting Zionism and its allies in the region. He said that the Palestinian-Syrian relations became highly significant following President Hafiz al-Asad's corrective movement when Syria's stand toward any Arab or foreign state became contingent on that state's position on the Palestinian issue. Hence, Syria's noble stand to back the Palestinian revolution and defend it in Lebanon in the face of the barbaric Zionist invasion.

Qaddah also said that our Arab nation is passing through difficult circumstances because of the escalating imperialist onslaught aimed at imposing hegemony, control, and capitulation on the entire Arab region.

Concluding his speech, Comrade Qaddah assailed those who cast doubts on Syria's role. Syria, he said, is aware of its fate and methods, the methods of steadfastness and sacrifice, regardless of the U.S.-Israeli statements and threats to mount an aggression against it. This is because Syria believes in its just stand and its conviction that such a stand can be decided only through military struggle.

Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the PNC made a speech in which he praised Syria's national and pan-Arab stand under President Hafiz al-Asad on our Arab nation's causes of struggle headed by the Palestinian cause. He stressed the need for Syrian-Palestinian cohesion particularly in the current circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing, and when it is exposed to fierce imperialist-Zionist plots. Al-Fahum also praised the role of struggle played by Syria, represented by its armed forces in defending Lebanon and protecting its territory and people, and in standing alongside the Palestinian revolution and people. He reiterated the Palestinian people's rejection of all the capitulationist resolutions currently being proposed in the Arab region, particularly the Reagan plan.

In his speech, In'am Ra'd, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, expressed the gratitude of all the national Lebanese forces to Syria and its president for the sacrifices they have made and are still making on the Lebanese soil in order to preserve the unity of the Lebanese territory and people. He praised the role played by the Syrian Armed Forces within the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon for their confrontation of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon alongside the Palestinian people, affirming the adherence of all the Lebanese nationalist forces and people to the unity of Lebanese territory, to ending the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, and to the unconditional withdrawal of the invading forces from the entire Lebanese territory.

The rally was concluded with a speech by DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah in which he saluted the martyrs of the Palestinian revolution, Syria, and the Lebanese National Movement who sacrificed their lives in defense of the Arabs' primary cause of Palestine against all plots and aggressions.

Speaking about the new plots in the region, the goal of which is forcing progressive and nationalist forces to their knees, particularly the so-called Reagan plan, he affirmed that the DFLP and the Palestinian people reject all these plans and that the Palestinian people will remain united under the PLO. In this context, Hawatimah stressed the importance of one Palestinian stand concerning plans pertaining to the Palestinian people in the region, asserting the front's rejection of the proposals concerning representation of the Palestinians, and authorizing others to speak on their behalf. Hawatimah referred to the recent PNC resolutions and said that they were directed against the U.S. Administration's solutions and the wrong moves on the Palestinian level, be they the rightist moves or the moves to plot against the cause.

He asserted that all doors are closed to the Reagan's plan and the moves to authorize Jordan [to speak in the name of the Palestinians], pointing out that the Reagan plan attempts to wipe out the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Hawatimah praised the heroic stand of the Syrian forces, the Palestinian resistance, and the Lebanese National Movement during the Lebanese invasion, referring to the U.S. and Israeli threats to Syria and their encroachment on Syria's right to enhance its strength. He said that such threats will meet only with failure.

Concluding his speech, Hawatimah saluted the steadfast, progressive, and national forces in the Arab world, particularly Syria. He stressed the need for an alliance among these forces in order to foil the liquidationist and capitulatory schemes aimed against the Arab people and land.

PALESTINE BROADCAST DISCUSSES PNC RESOLUTIONS

JN041958 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Mar 83

["Palestine broadcast" unattributed commentary]

[Text] Some arguments witnessed by the 16th session of the PNC revolved around how to restore the balance of power between the Arabs and the enemy, because the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the result of this invasion have upset this balance. The political report, which was submitted to the PNC by the Executive Committee, clarified that this upset in the balance of power was due to two basic factors: first, As-Sadat's methodology, which removed Egypt from the arena of the Arab-Zionist conflict; and second, the Iraq-Iran war, which damaged the two countries' energies and paralyzed their efficacy to confront the expansionist, aggressive, Zionist policy.

Some proposed viewpoints were confined to attempts to restore this balance through two steps: first, the restoration of Egypt to the Arab-Zionist conflict as a confrontation state, and second, the ending of the Iraq-Iran war. Some resistance leaders' political moves were viewed as aiming at realizing these two objectives. The opposite viewpoint, did not, of course, rule out the need to achieve such changes in the Arab state of affairs in favor of mobilizing Arab energies to confront the Zionist enemy. But it clarified that a tangible, realistic, basis for confrontation in the current circumstances is represented by the close alliance between the Palestinian revolution and Syria, the strengthening of the role of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, and the promotion of the alliance with the USSR. At the same time, the struggle should be continued to liberate Egypt from the burdens of the Camp David accords and to mobilize all the Arab forces to confront the Zionist enemy.

The PNC resolutions, as crystallized by the political declaration of the PNC at the conclusion of its work, assert that the strategic relations between the Palestinian revolution and Syria are the basis for developing the capabilities and power to achieve a balance with the enemy, beginning with reactivating the role of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, continuing the struggle with Egyptian popular forces in order to liberate Egypt from the restrictions of the Camp David accords, as well as strengthening alliances with the Socialist bloc countries headed by the friendly Soviet Union.

It is obvious that the method adopted by the PNC in this concern is identical to Syria's view of the requirements of the conflict in this stage. It is also a method which adopts the principle of armed struggle and a continuation of the struggle in order to wrest national rights and liberate the land.

FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMIR INTERVIEWED 4 MARCH

TA041642 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1605 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir interviewed on "Gentlemen the Press" program by Ilan Kfir and 'Oz Frankel, with moderator Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat -- live in studio]

[Text] [Ben-Porat] Good evening, here we are again with Gentlemen the Press and this time with Foreign Minister Mr Yitzhaq Shamir. Good evening, Sir.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Ben-Porat] My colleagues in the journalists' team are Ilan Kfir from MA'ARIV and 'Oz Frankel from IDF Radio. Mr Minister, I will begin with a question that is, of course, topical, or appears to me to be topical. We have the impression that the Syrians and the Soviets are insisting on heating up the borders in the north; in any event, according to their statements. What in your opinion is the significance of their latest statements?

[Shamir] First of all, I must say that we are not interested in any heating up of any sector. We have no interest in violating the existing stability. We have no thoughts or intentions of attacking Syria or its allies or anyone else in the area. It is true that Syria has recently become the focus of concern, of unquiet, of threats. We do not know, we are not sure whether Syria is prepared to retreat from Lebanon, as we have been told by the Lebanese and the Americans. We do not know what is concealed behind the constant announcements that Israel is preparing to attack Syria. We know that those announcements are absolutely baseless, this requires alertness of us and we must be on guard.

[Ben-Porat] This week there has been talk about concentrations of our forces along the Syrian border. Is there anything in this?

[Shamir] There is nothing at all in that.

[Frankel] Mr Minister, following from the same issues, do those warnings that are coming from Damascus and Moscow perhaps indicate a possible act of provocation by the Soviets, by the Syrians?

[Shamir] Everything must be taken into account.

[Kfir] Mr Shamir, are the Soviet SAM-5 creating a new situation for Israel in terms of the deployment of the forces in the area?

[Shamir] In any event, it is a new element and it must be taken into account, both from the political and military viewpoints, and we are, as I said, aware of all aspects of this issue. In any event, we are not interested in any heating up or in any stirring up of tempers.

[Frankel] When you say, we are aware, does that mean that the Cabinet has already discussed or is going to or is scheduled to discuss the situation?

[Shamir] The Cabinet receives reports very often.

[Kfir] Is the increasing Soviet involvement in Syria, in the Middle East as a whole, also increasing the political cooperation between us and the United States?

[Shamir] This is required. It is clear that in everything involving the Soviet Union's involvement in the area, especially by introducing weapons that could influence the balance of forces, in everything involving these matters, there must be and there is cooperation or there is a dialogue between us and the United States.

[Kfir] Are you prepared to expand on this point? What is the meaning of this cooperation?

[Shamir] I do not have to; I do not think that I need to go into detail, but there is a feeling here of common interests. This is required by the situation and we are acting accordingly.

[Ben-Porat] Mr Shamir, what is the explanation, ours and the Americans', of the deepening of the Soviet involvement at the current time?

[Shamir] There may be various explanations, but I do not think that I need to explain the Soviet moves. We can leave that to them.

[Ben-Porat] Gentlemen, if there is anything else about Syria, go ahead, if not, I am moving on to Lebanon.

[Kfir] Yes, I would like to ask about Syria: Other than optimistic or semioptimistic reports by mediator Philip Habib, we are in fact hearing not a word from Damascus about the Syrians' willingness to leave Lebanon. What is your impression? Are the Syrians really ready to leave in return for the IDF's evacuation?

[Shamir] We have no certainty of this. After all, we have no direct contact with them. What we know is that the Syrians told the representatives of the United States and, inter alia, the U.S. secretary of state, and representatives of Lebanon, that they will be prepared to withdraw from Lebanon. To what extent they will keep their promise, nobody knows. I think that this will be tested at the appropriate time, when the time for that comes.

[Frankel] Still on the issue of the Soviet involvement in the Middle East, when the war in Lebanon was being planned, was that possibility taken into account, that the Soviet Union would increase its involvement, and in the comprehensive accounting, has the cost of the war not come out at a loss? There is more danger to Israel's security now after the introduction of those weapons into Syrian territory.

[Shamir] There was the assessment that the Soviet Union would not intervene. To this day there is the assessment that the Soviet Union will intervene in defense of Syria when Syrian territory is in danger and it will not be involved in Syria's borders, beyond its borders [as heard]. That assessment still stands.

[Frankel] What is our assessment?

[Shamir] I said it. That assessment still exists, but experience has taught us that we cannot rely on assessments alone.

[Kfir] Mr Minister, on Friday morning, [date not specified] you met with U.S. mediator Philip Habib. What did you talk about?

[Shamir] That was one of a series of meetings that we have been holding recently. After all those meetings, after a series of talks, meetings between the delegations of Israel and Lebanon and before Philip Habib leaves for the United States today, we thought that we should and that it would be worthwhile drawing a balance of what has been achieved to date, of the problems that have remained and of the continuation of the talks.

[Frankel] Is he leaving here despairing of his attempts?

[Shamir] I would not say that. He is leaving for several days. He has some commitment there that was set a long time ago. He will return here next week and I do not think he has any reason for despair. It is true that the negotiations are not easy and there are complicated problems, there are certain dilemmas, but I think that we have made progress and I hope that we will overcome the difficulties that still remain.

[Kfir] Mr Shamir, how would you sum up the balance of Philip Habib's current round and is there any progress toward an agreement, or has the situation remained as it was before?

[Shamir] I do not, I would not define the round as Philip Habib's round. The main negotiations were conducted in meetings in Khaldah or Netanya or Qiryat Shemona between the delegations of Lebanon and Israel. Philip Habib acts here as an accelerating factor. Sometimes he proposes some compromise solutions in order to reduce the gaps between the different positions. I think that serious progress has been achieved. I think that there is full understanding of the positions of both sides, but at the same time, there are still problems that are quite difficult to solve, mainly in the two primary fields, the problem of the security arrangements and the field of security and the region of security, and the problem of what we call the mutual relations between Israel and Lebanon. These things still require several decisions and polishing of agreements that have already been achieved.

[Kfir] On the same matter, the security arrangements: At first Israel spoke about early warning stations, after that about supervision stations there, and now it is speaking about observation sites. What really is the task of the military presence that Israel wants in southern Lebanon?

[Shamir] After all, the mission today, since the question is of the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon, is to maintain security arrangements in the area close to the border, such arrangements as will prevent the terrorist organizations from returning to the border and attacking Israel from that area. In our opinion, this must be founded on full, close cooperation between Israel's and Lebanon's forces. Within the framework of that cooperation we made various proposals that involve some sort of Israeli presence, a temporary and agreed upon one, in the field. The form is a function of the mission that will be assigned those units. It is on this that the negotiations are being conducted.

[Kfir] Can I understand from what you are saying that we are willing to examine new proposals in this context?

[Shamir] We are always prepared to examine proposals that could satisfy us. No proposal, even if made by us, is Moses' tablets in Sinai and it is important to us to solve the security problem and anything that will help this is worth examination and clarification.

[Ben-Porat] Altogether, do you see any light at the end of this tunnel? Can you tell us, in another month, another 2 months, another 3 months, we will reach an agreement?

[Shamir] I think that we will reach an agreement because we must reach an agreement and that is recognized by all sides and I think that both the Lebanese and the Americans understand that in order to reach an agreement, we must be certain that we have guaranteed security in the security zone and that we have laid the foundations for relations, good relations of neighborliness between us and Lebanon, and that they too need security.

[Ben-Porat] The Americans were very optimistic a few days ago, I would say, perhaps a week or two. They give us the feeling that an agreement may be reached any minute now. Are they too optimistic?

[Shamir] That is generally a U.S. trait and they think that it helps the negotiations. It aids, it speeds up the sides. I would say that there are grounds for hope that we will reach an agreement soon.

[Kfir] By Passover?

[Shamir] I cannot set dates. Sometimes there can be one problem, not the most important one, that can delay things, because, after all, we are discussing the most important matters here and sometimes it is worth losing another week in order to reach a solution that will prevent many troubles in the weeks and months and years to come.

[Ben-Porat] The Americans have also mentioned the possibility of replacing Habib with Carter or Kissinger, all sorts of names have been raised. What does this mean?

[Shamir] We have read about those rumors. We do not see any signs of this. In the meantime, Habib is the representative of the President on the whole of this issue and we are discussing it with him and of course with the secretary of state in Washington.

[Ben-Porat] Since those names have been raised, what is former President Carter's situation in the area?

[Shamir] I think that he will be here next week and you will have the opportunity to ask him.

[Ben-Porat] In the meantime, you perhaps, nevertheless, follow what is happening. There is movement, there is action. [last word in English]

[Shamir] This is a tour, as far as we understand, a private tour by the man who was very involved in arrangements, in agreements involving the future of the area. He wants to meet various people here, various elements. He will also be in Israel to meet those people who participated in the drama [last word in English] of Camp David and, of course, he is the former U.S. president. We will receive him with all the honor of which he is worthy.

[Ben-Porat] Has he been given a mission by President Reagan?

[Shamir] I do not think that this is a mission, but we may assume that he is being given directives [hanhayot] and he is up-to-date, up-to-date about what is occurring.

[Ben-Porat] Is it not strange that he is beginning his visit to our near vicinity in Gaza?

[Shamir] We did not intervene in drawing up the schedule of his visit, and in any event, I think that in the talks we will hold with him, we will understand more.

[Ben-Porat] Was it a disappointment for you to read in the press by people who were very close to Carter certain things that he said about Israeli figures at that time?

[Shamir] Well, it would be better not to disclose that. [laughs]

[Kfir] With your permission, I would like to return, for another minute, to the Lebanese matter. Philip Habib said clearly that in fact the only obstacle now preventing an arrangement is the question of the security arrangements, with a hint that the Israeli condition of early warning stations is, in fact, perhaps, the last obstacle. In your talk about observation sites, do we notice a certain Israeli flexibility and is Israel really thinking about other alternative solutions, other than the early warning stations?

[Shamir] In my view, Israel has always shown flexibility in these negotiations. Flexibility from the aspect that I explained, that we are faithful to the achievement of the objective, and we are flexible in deciding about the measures that should lead to the fulfillment of that objective. We said early warning stations, observation posts, they are important things, but they are not by way of being something from which we will not budge. If a proposal is made to us or if we foresee another possibility that will provide an answer to the security issues and is acceptable to the other sides, we will examine it, we will study it. Perhaps it will lead us to an agreement and also provide a satisfactory answer to what is needed.

[Ben-Porat] Is the tone of flexibility -- I am permitting myself to express an assessment -- the tone of flexibility that we can hear in what you are saying, is it, among other things, a result of the fact that Mr Sharon has resigned from the Defense Ministry and is no longer participating actively in the negotiations?

[Shamir] I would not say that, because this view was expressed by me, and not only by me, when Mr Sharon was defense minister, too. I do not think that he has a very different view.

[Kfir] With regard to the second disputed point in the sphere of the security arrangements, a UNIFIL presence or that of another multinational force inside the security strip zone; sometimes it is hard to understand this very aggressive, firm opposition to even a limited UNIFIL presence inside the security strip, in the refugee camps, for example....

[Shamir] Experience, that is the answer, the experience we had with those forces, the UNIFIL forces, when they did not, in fact, fulfill such a task when we are not there. UNIFIL is not designed for war on terrorists. If the terrorists come back to that area and UNIFIL is there, they will find ways to coexist and they will not solve the security problem for us. As for guarding the refugee camps, after all, there is danger, and there is such an assessment that when the refugees, the refugee camps, come under UNIFIL's aegis, they will once again turn into PLO stores and bases, under the aegis of the United Nations.

[Kfir] Is it true that the terrorists are making their evacuation from Lebanon dependent on UNIFIL, or another multinational force, guarding the refugee camps?

[Shamir] We have not heard that. There have been various rumors. Officially and clearly we have never been told such a thing and even if it is said, it does not bind us to accept it.

[Ben-Porat] Since we are already discussing terrorists, where do the negotiations about the release of our prisoners stand?

[Shamir] There are only rumors. To this day there are no negotiations. There have been dealings, there have been clarifications and there are clarifications. Negotiations, as far as I know, do not yet exist, have not yet been opened.

[Ben-Porat] But unofficial Israeli elements are involved in those contacts.

[Shamir] They have been involved, they are involved, that is reported, that is published....

[Ben-Porat] Are contacts continuing?

[Shamir] There are no negotiations yet.

[Kfir] Mr Shamir, would you be prepared, in their forum, to confirm that at least two prominent leaders in Europe -- and the press has mentioned in various contexts the president [as heard] of Austria and the president of Romania -- can you confirm that they have been involved in these humanitarian issues?

[Shamir] I cannot go into details. There may have been appeals by them. They may have touched on that matter on this or that date, but this has no connection with negotiations. We, Israel, want to receive, first of all, the most genuine details about the fate of the prisoners and missing. There are still people about whom we have no reports, no real reports, people nobody has yet seen. Even the Red Cross staff has not yet reached them and we must get this information before any talks, before any negotiations. We have to know that they are alive and how they are living and where they are living. That is the main goal at this moment.

[Kfir] To go back to the details of the political negotiations with Lebanon, the Lebanese are proposing an interim arrangement in the field of normalization for a period of 6 months. Are we willing to accept such a proposal, and under what conditions?

[Shamir] The negotiations are at their peak. Inter alia, a similar idea to that you mentioned has been raised, but we are not rejecting it out of hand, but what is important is the details, what is important is the framework, what is important are the guarantees that we will receive that what is agreed upon will really be implemented. In any event, these very days we are discussing the details of that issue.

[Ben-Porat] Gentlemen, let us conclude the issue of Lebanon. One more question....

[Kfir] I have a last question on the issue of Lebanon, Mr Shamir. Mr Foreign Minister, a few months ago you met, in a meeting that was described as secret, with the person who had been intended to be the president of Lebanon, Bashir al-Jumayyil. A few days after that he was murdered. Since then, it seems that there are almost no contacts between Israel and the Lebanese president and the Lebanese top ranks. Are you personally, as foreign minister, disappointed at the way the Lebanese leadership regards Israel and the future of the relations between the two countries?

[Shamir] I would say that direct contact, if there were such, between the leaderships of Lebanon and Israel, would help greatly to achieve an agreement because in what we are discussing today, security arrangements and the format of the relations, there is a large aspect in this, an important factor and it is the factor of mutual trust and you cannot achieve mutual trust without direct contact, without your knowing those people, without your speaking with them, without your having a serious and profound discussion and I admit that this is lacking, we lack it at this moment, in order to reach an evaluation that will guide us in the contacts, in the negotiations. And so I cannot say that we are pleased with what we hear about the Lebanese Government's way of acting and way of regarding Israel's demands. We also know that they are in constant, direct contact with the Arab countries, with Saudi Arabia, with Syria, with Egypt and these contacts, for the most part, are not helpful and they do not help the establishment of good relations, relations of cooperation between us and them.

[Ben-Porat] Mr Foreign Minister, earlier I mentioned the policy of any minute now, pardon me for the expression, by the Americans, in connection with Lebanon. Any minute now there will be an agreement. There is such a U.S. any minute now policy, a very much more serious one, on the issue of Husayn. Husayn is joining the negotiations over autonomy or the future of the territories. Where does this stand? What do we know about this? Where is this any minute now?

[Shamir] There are so many reports that nothing at all is known.

[Ben-Porat] What do the Americans tell you? To us, the journalists, they say certain things, what are they telling the government?

[Shamir] There are assessments. Of course, there are no official, authoritative announcements about this matter. There are various assessments. From time to time there are guesses and they vary, both in content, in form, and in the amount of certainty there is in them and according to all these reports and these announcements, it is not clear, not clear to this day, what Husayn has decided and what he has not decided, if he will join the peace process or if he will not join and in what form or under what conditions or if there will be conditions at all. We are not tense. We are prepared. We have said many times, we will welcome his joining the peace process, we will discuss with him, we will speak with him, we will conduct negotiations, if he comes.

[Ben-Porat] Has any element whatsoever, U.S. or other, over the last few weeks, come to us secretly or overtly and told us: Gentlemen, freeze the settlements and Husayn joins this dance?

[Shamir] Nobody has come and nobody has appealed. I think this is because everyone knows our answer.

[Frankel] Nevertheless, Mr Shamir, is there no room for some sort of Israeli initiative that would create an atmosphere toward the possibility of Husayn joining?

[Shamir] There is such an atmosphere. We have said many times that we are prepared, that we are interested. What more is needed? We have also said that we will not accept conditions. We will not go to negotiations with preconditions. Everything is clear here. The decision is in Jordan's hands, in Husayn's hands. After all, we were also prepared for this after Camp David, and at Camp David and we are also prepared today. Look, the day before yesterday, we met, we renewed a set of meetings with the Egyptians. We are always prepared to talk.

[Ben-Porat] Apropos of Camp David, is it true that at one time As-Sadat stopped Husayn from going to Camp David? Was there such a possibility?

[Shamir] No. I do not know of it.

[Frankel] Mr Shamir, further to what you said, on the one hand, we are demanding that Husayn should come to the negotiating table without preconditions, but on the other, we are demanding that the negotiations with Jordan be conducted on the basis of the Camp David program. Is this not a precondition by Israel?

[Shamir] That is not a precondition, we are not demanding, we are only laying it down that negotiations over the peace process cannot be conducted other than on the basis of the Camp David agreements because that is the only peace program existing in the area to which we are committed, and which was agreed upon by the United States, which was agreed upon by Egypt, and there is an important place in that program for Jordan. It is therefore natural and clear that the negotiations will be conducted within that framework.

[Frankel] Mr Shamir, where does the plan that bears the name of President Reagan stand today and are there assessments that the United States, in fact, is beginning to despair of the possibility of advancing that plan?

[Shamir] I cannot relate to assessments. I generally stay far away from commentary. However, there are various rumors. I can only say that in fact, there is no Reagan plan. There was a speech by the President of the United States on 1 September and in that speech he expressed several ideas involving a solution to the problems of the Middle East. There was no complete plan in it.

In fact, a plan, a real plan, a formulated and completed plan, a peace plan -- there is only one of those in the area and that is the Camp David plan and so we think that any negotiations, any resumption of negotiations should be within that framework, the actualization of that process and anyone can come within the framework of that process and make his contribution. We will also bring new ideas, new proposals, too, but that must be within that framework.

[Ben-Porat] At any rate, there is President Reagan's new idea; maybe not so new, but a renewed use of the term homeland, [last word in English], homeland.

[Shamir] In fact, he is repeating Carter's words, those of his predecessor. Carter once said that. The Americans claim that there is nothing new in that, that this does not deviate from what was said by them many times. This was stated mainly when the President rushed to say afterwards that he did not mean a Palestinian state, but the very fact of the term has in it something that can worry us.

[Frankel] Recently there have been reports to the effect that King Husayn has a letter from President Reagan and that letter contains farreaching promises about the U.S. position concerning Judaea and Samaria. What do we know about this?

[Shamir] There are such reports, but as we have been told by the Americans, they said that in everything that has been said or written to King Husayn, there was no deviation from what the U.S. President said in his speech of 1 September.

[Kfir] Mr Foreign Minister, this week, after a long period of freeze, the contacts with Egypt were renewed. Have you already received a report from the Israeli delegation and how did the first round of those talks end?

[Shamir] I have received a report, short, it is true, compressed, still not a full report, I will receive it today [as heard]. This was a first talk in a series of talks that we are going to hold in the next few days after a long recess. Since this was only a first talk nothing has yet been concluded [sukam], nothing has been achieved other than the very fact of the talks' resumption. There will be further talks on both the Tabah issue and the other issues connected with what we call normalization, which we regard as very, very important.

[Kfir] Was it an Israeli condition for the holding of the Tabah talks that the Egyptians should also talk about the normalization issue with us?

[Shamir] It is clear that this has been our policy all the time, that we will not speak only about an issue which, for this or that reason, interests the Egyptians, with all the other issues being frozen. I said earlier, we regard the matter of normalization as very important because after the experience we have had, I do not believe in genuine peace -- even if you have the best treaty -- if it is not accompanied by normal relations, full relations in all fields, between the two nations.

[Kfir] In your opinion, are the negotiations that opened this week capable of leading to a thaw in the cold peace between Israel and Egypt?

[Shamir] I hope so, if not to a full thaw, then to a light thaw. We will welcome any progress in that direction.

[Ben-Porat] According to the reports you have received about the contacts, the resumption of these contacts, can we say that they have fostered warmer relations?

[Shamir] The atmosphere was good and what was good was the very fact that this contact will continue. I hope that it will contribute to warming relations.

[Ben-Porat] Gentlemen, I would just like to remind you that we will also discuss domestic, not only foreign, affairs. Mr Shamir is also a political personality, an honored one, a Cabinet member who deals with many fields, not only foreign affairs, so let us conclude the foreign affairs and after that we will move on to....

[Kfir] If so, I would like, perhaps, to conclude with a summing up question unless 'Oz Frankel has another question, on this issue. Mr Shamir, more than a year ago you agreed with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali that once every few months you would meet in Jerusalem or Cairo. Since then, in fact, the contact between you has been severed in the wake of the Lebanon war. Is the resumption of the contacts on the matter of Tabah and normalization paving the way and the possibility for a meeting between you and the Egyptian foreign minister soon?

[Shamir] Well, that was one of the things that was frozen with all the other issues. In the meantime there has been no talk about this. It may well be that this will be possible in the future. I think that direct contact on that level can always help.

[Frankel] Perhaps, still in the political field, a question on Israeli-U.S. relations. Following the appointment of Moshe Arens to the post of defense minister, are we really facing a new period in Israeli-U.S. relations?

[Shamir] We are always prepared to face a new period on condition that it is better, on condition that there will be a change for the better in it. I hope that -- it appears to me that signs of an improvement can be seen these days, an improvement in the atmosphere. If there is no actual change in the substance of the matters over which we have differences of opinion, there is also importance to atmosphere, to the tone of words, to the tones [last word in English] heard. I hope that we are in an atmosphere of improvement.

[Frankel] This week we heard a new-old proposal to send an Israeli delegation headed by you to Washington to increase the dialogue with the United States. What is your opinion about that proposal?

[Shamir] A dialogue is always important. There has been no discussion about this and it may very well be that we will decide, and the United States will also decide that there is a need for this, but, it is not, it cannot be dismissed.

[Frankel] Do you already have a candidate to be our ambassador to Washington instead of Mr Arens?

[Shamir] There are candidates. I would say....

[Frankel] One candidate?

[Shamir] I think that we will appoint a man to that post very soon, because I do not think that it is at all possible to leave that post vacant and I hope that that appointment will be implemented very soon.

[Ben-Porat] Would it be more than a guess to say that it will be Mr Me'ir Rosenne, our current ambassador to Paris?

[Shamir] I cannot say anything.

[Frankel] What is the political significance, in the Herut movement, of Moshe Arens' joining the Cabinet as defense minister, as regards what is called in journalists' slang the struggle for the succession?

[Shamir] Oh, those are speculations. [laughs] They keep on coming back without any genuine foundations. Moshe Arens has always been in one of the top ranks of the Herut movement, even before his appointment as ambassador to the United States and even before he was appointed defense minister and there is no war over the succession.

[Ben-Porat] Mr Shamir, there was an assumption that was prevalent among the public, primarily among the public of commentators, journalist commentators, that after the Kahan commission there would be a great upheaval and the government might fall and who knows what would happen. Do you agree with me that, paradoxically, and without going into the personal aspects of the matter here, the government, after the Kahan commission, after the findings were formulated as they were, has at least an image that is better than it did previously?

[Shamir] That is what observers are saying.

[Frankel] What do the ministers say?

[Shamir] The ministers are immersed in their work, and in all that involves me, I have very many problems I have to cope with these days. I cannot worry about the image, but I think that we have really safely passed the crisis that could have occurred as a result of the report of the inquiry commission.

[Frankel] Mr Shamir, would I be correct if I said that we certainly have a feeling of an improvement in the mood inside the Cabinet, an atmosphere of better functioning, better teamwork?

[Shamir] I cannot say anything of that sort. I do not feel any substantive change. Of course, after there was a crisis, after the storm of feelings with whose aid the commission was established and, naturally, by the media and the public demonstrations and so on, there is a feeling of relief. It may be that as a result of the feeling of relief, someone has the feeling that a change for the better has taken place, a serious improvement in the Cabinet's work, but I think that the Cabinet continues to function, as I said, well.

[Ben-Porat] In the functioning of the foreign minister's office, the Foreign Ministry in the broader meaning, has there been any room, is there any room to draw any morals after the commission and after the comments by the commission regarding you and the ministry?

[Shamir] We always learn morals from everything and I do not think that there is any part of the system that cannot be corrected at all or improved at all. In everything involving me, I always try to listen, to improve as far as is possible.

[Frankel] But after the commission, did you issue any directive to any echelon in the ministry: Please update me more than you did up to now? Please bring me these or those documents that you did not bring me? I want to be in the picture in everything.

[Shamir] I do not think that I was not updated before that either, but I see to it that I am very updated on all the occurrences and I think that there is no room for complaints, from this viewpoint, against the Foreign Ministry.

[Frankel] On the same matter, the Kahan commission, following the report, there are ministers who recall the recommenation of the Agranat committee, to establish a body, a council for national security, as part of the prime minister's office. Do you support that proposal?

[Shamir] It all depends on who will be in the council, what it will do, what its field of action will be and to what extent it will not clash with the work of the other ministries. After all, Israel is a small country. Its interests, it is true, are very important, but they are not as broad, let us assume, as are those of the United States and it is difficult for the moment to decide whether this is really essential and vital, that there should be a national security institution here on the model of that in the United States, with all that surrounds such an organization and such a creature. At one time today's defense minister also recommended that. It would be good to hear his opinion after a period of his personal experience in his current post.

[Frankel] If I am not mistaken, throughout the entire public debate on the commission of inquiry's findings, your voice was not heard. Are you willing, on this occasion, to discuss the commission's findings?

[Shamir] I do not think that I am obliged to do so, that I have to do so, and I do not think that I will act differently in the future.

[Frankel] On a completely different subject perhaps....

[Ben-Porat] Yes, definitely, that is a good idea, thanks.

[Frankel] It is about time. Yesterday, you met with the chairman of the Presidents Conference of U.S. Jewish Organizations, Julius Berman. Did the chairman bring to Israel new tidings from the U.S. Jewish community?

[Shamir] He usually brings good tidings, of complete unity, of unity toward the outside, that is, unity in the Jewish community's support -- including its institutions in the United States -- full support for the Israeli Government, the State of Israel, in all their contacts with the U.S. Administration. It is hard to exaggerate the importance of this matter. In the United States, U.S. Jewry is considered a political element of the highest importance, and this element's identification with Israel, and its support for Israel -- unqualified, and without internal fissures -- is a most important and beneficial thing in today's situation.

[Frankel] I understood that Berman was bringing a new position paper of the U.S. Jewish communities.

[Shamir] I have not seen that paper. I do not think that such a thing exists, but perhaps I am mistaken.

[Kfir] Mr Shamir, a domestic question. For several days the Foreign Ministry has been working to rule, ending work at precisely 1800 [Foreign Ministry workers have refused to work overtime in protest of low wages]. What significance and harm does such a strike have, and do you identify with the demands of your ministry's workers?

[Shamir] I think that their demands are just. But I do not think that this strike is just. I think that the Foreign Ministry workers' salaries are too low. This is the result of many years of neglect, since the state was established. My predecessors did not concern themselves with this. Perhaps someone once tried to do something then abandoned the matter. This matter requires redress, and I hope very much that it will be redressed. Meanwhile, these sanctions will be of no use because I think that I will do everything in my power, and I hope very much that I will get the cooperation of the Cabinet in this matter. And I am concerned about the damage that is liable to be caused here and there by the sanctions, needlessly. All of us will regret it, and I think that the Foreign Ministry workers also, who have a tradition of devotion to the country's interests, they themselves will regret it if their strike indeed causes any damage.

[Kfir] When the doctors strike, the damage is felt immediately. When a strike by the Foreign Ministry diplomats is involved, how can such a strike harm the work of the foreign service?

[Shamir] I would not enumerate all the things that could be hurt, one reason being not to tempt or persuade someone that that is the way to get their demands. [laughs]

[Kfir] Do you think that the workers do not know? [everyone laughs]

[Shamir] However, there are many things that require activity around the clock. And sometimes a delay can severely harm the country's interests. Therefore such action is neither healthy nor desirable, and it must be stopped.

[Ben-Porat] There are really some small things, how are they managed when work is stopped at 1800. For example, hosting guests from abroad that is always done in the evening -- cocktail parties, dinners, or reports that are received from the embassies?

[Shamir] I think that all that has been taken into account. Till now those things have not suffered. But I worry about the future.

[Frankel] We heard this week from two different sources that the British Government applied pressure -- as simple as that -- on the Israeli Government not to appoint Eliyahu Lankin as ambassador to London. Did Israel respond to that pressure?

[Shamir] The British Government did not apply any pressure.

[Frankel] The report....

[Shamir] Because, in fact, we did not turn to the British Government. After all, what is the procedure usually? When the government decides to appoint someone, the candidate's name is submitted to the government to which he will be accredited and that government must decide whether or not to accept him. Since we had not yet made a decision, the British Government could not have intervened at all. What happened was there was intervention by the media.

[Ben-Porat] With or without a prompting from above?

[Shamir] I think that it began from the bottom -- I do not know how far down it began -- but there definitely was no official intervention. It began in the press and the media, it moved to the parliament. It surprised us, I have to say. When the development of international relations in all the world's countries is examined, this thing is surprising. Are we the only country that was established as a result of war against another country that controlled the area; we are not the first nor are we the last. What, for example, would France's relations with Algeria be like if they prevented former (FLM) members from serving as ambassadors to France? I presume that no candidate could be found in Algeria who was not a member of the (FLM). And there are numerous such examples in all the countries of the world. Therefore, this was a complete surprise. However, sometimes you cannot know exactly the feelings and moods in another country. It is a fact that this opposition happened in Britain, and we know the results. Our candidate, who was definitely suitable and good, decided that as a result of the voices that were sounded in the British media that it would be better if he did not go there. He decided so and we respected his decision.

[Frankel] Regarding the embassy in London, the ambassadorship has been vacant for 8 months. Does Israel have a lack of suitable people for that post?

[Shamir] There is no shortage. Here, for example, you have an attempt that did not succeed. We will just appoint someone else.

[Frankel] When?

[Shamir] Soon.

'ARAFAT REPORTEDLY READY TO JOIN PEACE TALKS

TA061136 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1115 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is prepared to join the peace process without preconditions. This is what he is saying in an interview to the British independent television network in a program to be broadcast in about 1 hour. Our correspondent in London Yosi Melman adds details:

[Begin Melman recording] According to the program, the fate of President Reagan's peace plan will be decided by the end of the month. Husayn, the Jordanian king, is prepared to join the peace process on condition that an appropriate settlement is found to incorporate the PLO in the talks. The PLO, the British television program claims, is willing to join the negotiations without preconditions. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said in the interview, which will be broadcast in about an hour: Let each party abandon its preconditions and let us approach the talks directly and openly.

The producers of the program say that this readiness for talks with the United States constitutes an outstanding change in the organization's policy. Up till now, the PLO demanded [darash] as a condition for joining the negotiations U.S. recognition of the PLO and of the Palestinians' right to a country of their own. Now, the British television program contends, the PLO has abandoned its preconditions. [end recording]

BEN-ELISAR ON SYRIAN MISSILES, OTHER ISSUES

JN061736 Jeruslaem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 6 Mar 83

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign and Security Affairs Committee, today reaffirmed in an interview with our correspondent that Israel does not intend to attack Syria. However, he warned Syria not to make any wrong assessments. He said that the USSR constitutes a factor of increased tension in the region.

Regarding the resumption of the dialogue between Egypt and Israel, which was cut off following the Peace for Galilee Operation last June, Dr Ben-Elisar said: The resumption of the dialogue between Egypt and Israel is undoubtedly of some importance, but we must not exaggerate it. The mere resumption of dialogue between the two countries is in itself of undoubted importance, but we must not expect it to achieve immediate far-reaching results.

Dr Ben-Elisar said: The talks between Egypt and Israel will continue and cover all topics of mutual concern, including the Tabah issue and the relations between the two countries, but we must now link the two topics. He expected the talks to progress slowly. He warned against overoptimism and attaching too much hope to these talks.

Regarding Israeli-Lebanese talks, Dr Ben-Elisar said: Great progress has been made in the talks, but it cannot be said that they are about to be concluded successfully. He also warned against overoptimism, stressing that the Israel-Lebanese talks are not easy and will continue for some time.

He added: Israel and Lebanon will undoubtedly reach an agreement, but we must not forget that Syria also has a role.

Dr Ben-Elisar said Israel will not withdraw its forces from Lebanon unless Syria also withdraws, because Israel will not permit the Syrians and the terrorists to fill the vacuum it leaves behind. He said a return to the situation that existed before the Peace for Galilee Operation would not be in the interest of Israel or Lebanon. Dr Ben-Elisar praised Major Sa'd Haddad, saying he was the only Lebanese who, with his forces, had guaranteed the independence of at least a part of Lebanon. He added: Maj Haddad is, first and foremost, a devout citizen who is loyal to Lebanon. There is no doubt that he and his forces will have a role to play in the future.

Replying to a question on the up-to-date Soviet missiles set up by Syria recently, Dr Ben-Elisar said: We must first make it very clear that Israel has no intention of attacking Syria. This matter should be clear to Syria, to us, the Israelis, and to the superpowers. I firmly say that we do not want to enter Syrian territory, but we cannot ignore the fact that the USSR is not trying to calm down the situation. The contrary is true. The Soviets are trying to increase the tension, which makes us caution Syria against any wrong assessments of Israel's intentions.

Dr Ben-Elisar added that the Syrians must be careful in their assessments and policy. He affirmed that Israel does not intend to attack Syria, but that it cannot allow anyone to attack it.

SHAMIR MAY HEAD TALKS WITH U.S. ON SYRIA

TA041032 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Mar 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Jerusalem is looking into the possibility of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir going to the United States and talks with U.S. Administration leaders on the Lebanon problem and the increased Soviet intervention in Syria.

The senior political echelons in Jerusalem agree that it is necessary to increase political coordination with the United States, with a stepped up mutual effort to reach a swift agreement in Lebanon that would allow for the removal of all foreign forces, and a resumption of direct dialogue with the U.S. Administration.

The idea of sending the foreign minister to Washington was raised during deliberations during which the question was probed as to whether such a mission, in the near future, might not be interpreted by the U.S. Administration as an attempt to harm Philip Habib's mission, seeing that he was sent to the region at President Reagan's initiative.

Those favoring Shamir's dispatch to Washington believe that the background of the increased Soviet penetration into Syria, and the Syrian Army's massive reinforcement, provides ample grounds for a debate on this issue between the top political levels in Jerusalem and the corresponding officials in the U.S. Administration.

Jerusalem believes that the Soviet Union and Syria are deliberately creating tension through announcements from Moscow and Damascus on alleged Israeli concentration of forces along the northern border, and claiming that Israel is planning to attack the Soviet missile bases in Syria. Israel has firmly denied these reports.

Political sources in Jerusalem have noted Defense Minister Moshe Arens' contribution to to political-security thinking of the top political leadership, and his initiatives to enhance cooperation and coordination with the United States.

A senior political source reported that the prime minister and the other ministers expressed their satisfaction with and appreciation for the swift entry of Arens into his post as defense minister and his contribution toward shaping Israel's policy.

Jerusalem sources have reported that Israel had informed the United States that it has no intention of attacking the new missile batteries that have recently been stationed in Syria, unless they operate against Israeli targets.

In diplomatic contacts, Israel told the U.S. Administration that the reports being spread by Soviet and Syrian sources regarding initiated Israel tension along the northern border, and an Israeli attempt to prepare the ground and establish an alibi to attack the new missiles, are totally false.

This is the background against which Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan's remark is, that Israel does not intend to attack the Syrian missiles, should be seen.

SCHIFFER ON HABIB MISSION, ARENS' PROPOSAL

TA060619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Talk in the studio between political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and unidentified studio announcer -- live]

[Text] [Schiffer] First of all, Philip Habib left for his planned trip to Washington empty-handed. For the time being, Israel rejects his proposals that the security arrangements in southern Lebanon rely on foreign elements without any Israeli presence in the area. The Americans' intention is for IDF officers to be incorporated into the joint patrols with the Lebanese but they return immediately after the patrol. Also, the intention is that the status of Major Haddad's forces be maintained. The proposal that a Lebanese-Israeli committee be set up to arrange the passage of people and traffic between the two countries as an interim settlement until the IDF withdraws was also rejected.

It should be emphasized that Moshe Arens' entry into the small team of decisionmakers gave rise to hopes that there is a change in Israel's stand. Following the last consultation, in which Arens participated, the ministers felt that the new defense minister is very practical and wants to pull the IDF out of Lebanon as soon as possible while still attaining some of the war's objectives. One of the ministers quoted him as saying the following in the above consultation: "Our forces should be withdrawn from Lebanon quickly since we will soon be unable to explain to the public what we are doing there."

Arens also does not stop talking about the need to coordinate positions with the United States. In the above consultation, he proposed that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir be sent to Washington together with military experts in order to try to coordinate with U.S. Administration leaders on the Lebanon issue. The proposal was rejected since, among other things, the prime minister thought that this might have been a blow to Philip Habib.

Political sources last night stated that the U.S. mediator will have to reassess U.S. positions on all the issues on the agenda, especially in view of the fact that the Soviet Union is now deeply involved in Syria and this will affect arrangements in Lebanon, particularly Syria's decision whether or not to leave Lebanon.

[Question] On another matter, Shim'on Schiffer, an issue which will probably arise soon, namely, the appointment of a new Israeli ambassador to the United States: Where do things stand on this subject?

[Answer] As far as we could find out, the candidacy of our ambassador in Paris, Me'ir Rosenne, is still almost certain. But Defense Minister Moshe Arens firmly supports the candidacy of the minister plenipotentiary in Washington, Binyamin Netanyahu. Among the arguments Arens raises regarding Netanyahu is the fact that he is popular on U.S. television: This is important since the Jewish community and the Israeli diplomats today do not have easy access to the President. But through television, Professor Arens believes, Netanyahu will be able to reach the White House.

There is no doubt that Netanyahu receives much praise for his work in the Foreign Ministry. We should perhaps note another fact to which we were referred by political observers: The famous journalist, William Safire, in THE NEW YORK TIMES, at the end of the week, recommended Netanyahu as the Israeli ambassador to the United States after Arens. It seems then that Arens and Safire share the same recommendation. Safire wrote: The new ambassador should be able to make maximal use of U.S. television as was done by his predecessor. Let us emphasize though, that despite these arguments, the decision will ultimately be the foreign minister's, with the approval and consent of the prime minister.

[Question] About television: The matter of a second television channel is going to be on the Cabinet agenda this morning, is it not?

[Answer] The Cabinet may discuss this matter this morning. A week ago Minster Yitzhaq Moda'i raised the issue and recommended that a second channel be set up as soon as possible. Education Minister Hammer, who is in charge of implementing the broadcasting authority's law, will apparently be entrusted by the government today with preparing a draft resolution on this issue, and the Cabinet will discuss it within a month. It should be noted though that the main struggle will not be whether or not to set up a second channel -- there is consensus on this matter in the Cabinet -- but who will be responsible for and who will supervise the second channel. This will be the main struggle among the minsters.

ILIA ON SENTENCES OF VILLAGE LEAGUE MEMBERS

TA041233 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] The head of the Judaea and Samaria civilian administration, Shlomo Ilia, believes that not even detentions or torture in countries east of the Jordan River would deter the members of the area village league. They will pursue their course -- the only way to peace. He was reacting to the heavy sentences imposed by Jordan on three members of the area village leagues, one of them being a death sentence. Ilia was speaking in Bil'in, a village in the Ramallah district, in a ceremony dedicating a mosque named after the late head of the regional village leagues, Yusuf al-Khatib, who was murdered by PLO hitmen more than a year ago.

ALGERIA

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH USSR REPORTED

LD050511 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] Following the meeting of the 8th session of the permanent Algerian-Soviet State Committee on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, which was convened in Moscow, a protocol embracing an important agreement was concluded yesterday, Friday, covering various fields such as heavy industry, light industry, irrigation, agriculture, housing, transport, energy, vocational training, and scientific and technical cooperation in the field of construction.

The draft agreement was signed by the two chairmen of the committee, Kasdi Merbah, member of the Central Committee and heavy industry minister, and Semen Skachkov, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

The Soviet side agreed to provide a state loan to Algeria to cover the expenditure for the construction of railroad installations on the western part of the high plateau line. Concerning the studies on implementing the project, the Soviet Union gave Algeria a commercial loan to implement the project.

Brother Kasdi Merbah and Mr Skachkov at the signing ceremony pointed out the importance of this session, which actually demonstrates the development of Algerian-Soviet economic cooperation -- the 20th anniversary of which will be celebrated at the end of the year. Brother Kasdi Merbah explained that this cooperation had seen a marked progress in new fields since the visit of President Chadli Bendjedid to the Soviet Union in June 1981. On his part, Mr Skachkov recalled that the Soviet Union has been following with great interest the success achieved by Algeria and he expressed the conviction that this session will contribute to developing the friendly relations which exist between Algeria and the Soviet Union.

In this connection, the two ministers noted that some possibilities still exist and they should be sought in various fields especially with regard to the need to develop commercial cooperation so as to raise it to the level of economic cooperation.

In his reply to the questions put to him by newsmen, Brother Kasdi Merbah, who affirmed the will of the two sides to strengthen this cooperation, said that the overall result is positive and that cooperation will extend to seeral fields and it can embrace other sectors such as energy, railroads, and building materials.

LIBYA

ITALY ACCUSED OF HARASSING CIVILIAN AIRLINES

LD042128 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1957 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli 4 Mar (JANA) -- Sources in the Italian Air Force have claimed that the harassment by the Italian F-104 aircraft of the Libyan Arab Airlines passenger aircraft was nothing more than a normal watch operation by Italian air space surveillance aircraft.

The sources claimed, in an explanatory statement transmitted last night on Italian television, channel one, that the communication and contacts made with the pilot of the Libyan passenger aircraft did not, according to this claim, establish that the aircraft had obtained a permit to cross Italian air space.

Sources at Libyan Arab Airlines today refuted these allegations, and stressed to JANA that the air corridor that the Libyan Arab Airlines used for this journey was a regular route which it has been using for regular daily journeys for 10 years, that the Libyan pilot had previously obtained permission to cross, and that the Italian military aircraft started harassing the Libyan passenger aircraft 45 minutes after it entered Italian airspace. The Libyan Arab Airlines sources pointed out that the Libyan passenger aircraft had been in touch with the Italian air control before leaving Maltese airspace.

The Libyan Arab Airlines aircraft had been harassed by Italian F-104 aircraft equipped with air-to-air missiles during its normal Flight 102 from Tripoli to London, and the harassment continued for 35-km in violation of all international regulations.

SUDAN

AT-TAYYIB LEAVES FOR NEW DELHI 6 MARCH

JN061232 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 6 Mar (SUNA) -- First Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib left for New Delhi at 0530 today to head the Sudanese delegation to the nonaligned summit which will start its work tomorrow, Monday. At-Tayyib is accompanied by Dr Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq, minister of national guidance and information.

PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS TO MOVE TO ERKOWIT

JN051853 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Shandi, 5 Mar (SUNA) -- Leader of Palestinian fighters here Col Jum'ah al-Jamal announced today that a group of fighters will be transferred next week from here to Erkowit on the Red Sea coast and that the whole process of transference will be completed during this month.

Al-Jamal said that 70 percent of Erkowit camp installations have been completed and that the rest will be completed during the presence of the fighters in the camp.

Al-Jamal, who returned here last Thursday from a tour of Tunis and Algeria during which he attended the meetings of Palestine National Council [PNC] said that the PNC meetings were an international Palestinian festival. Al-Jamal praised Algeria for preparing for PNC meetings and providing the right atmosphere for "independent" Palestinian decision.

TUNISIA

MZALI TO REPRESENT BOURGUIBA AT NONALIGNED SUMMIT

LD041327 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba this morning received Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali. Following the meeting he said: The president of the republic has honored me by asking me to represent him at the Seventh Nonalignment Conference to be held in Delhi, the Indian capital, from 7-11 March. He asked me to address a statement in his name to all participating delegations in his capacity as the eldest founder of the Nonalignment Movement which, as is known, was founded in [words indistinct].

KENYA

PRESIDENT ORDERS RELEASE OF 124 EX-SERVICEMEN

EA041139 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Statement issued by President Daniel arap Moi -- date not given]

[Text] As I informed the nation on 22d February, 1983, the cases of the former servicemen of the disbanded Kenya Air Force have been going on under a process of continuous review. I have now additionally considered the cases of a further 124 ex-servicemen and have decided to exercise presidential clemency in their regard. Action has therefore been taken to release them and instructions issued that they should proceed directly to their homes.

Like those released before them, they are required to report to their respective chiefs' offices from the time until they are fully settled among their parents, families, and the local communities. They must also remain of good conduct and behavior at all times. Failure to do so will be viewed very seriously and may lead to appropriate action by the government against the offending ones.

Once again those among whom the released persons will live are requested to receive them well and help them lead useful and normal lives as good citizens. Opportunity is also taken to repeat the hope that they, and all those who may be tempted to break the law or mislead other Kenyans, have learnt a lesson.

My government will always uphold the law firmly, but justly, in the discharge of its cardinal responsibility to ensure peace and stability in the country.

Addresses Rally at Embu

EA021659 Nairobi Domestic Service in Swahili 1101 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Speech by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi at fundraising rally in Embu Stadium for local schools on 2 March -- live]

[Excerpt] I want to say that many citizens -- although human beings are insatiable -- will agree that in Kenya there is too much democracy, too much democracy and we will [word indistinct] the countrymen to have democracy. But for a person to flee this country and go to Europe and say there is a bad government in Kenya: If they say they defend the majority, why do they leave the majority here in Kenya and go to Europe.

They even wrote lies, saying that Catholic bishops protested to the Government of Kenya. Have you ever heard such a thing in the world? The Catholic Church was the first to publish remarks in THE NATION newspaper -- remarks all supporting the government. Now who are these people defending the majority? The devils, I think. Nobody opposes a person who speaks the truth. And we will not do any such thing. Why did they not go to another [word indistinct]?

They even say: We want multiple parties in Kenya. Many parties emerged in the past -- the APP [African People's Party], KADU [Kenya African Democratic Union] and KANU. They emerged everywhere. How many people died? Were they not many? That is why they want these events. We, the people of Kenya, have decided to keep our unity. Every one of you should have clean thoughts. You should have one intention: to bring up the youth of Kenya so that they become youth who respect their country. Those who were born in 1963 are the ones who are attending the universities.

Have these youth understood anything? Do they know the world? Do they know what imperialists are? They think an imperialist is an animal. They do not know what kind of person he is. The day before yesterday I pardoned 61 students and said they should go back [to the university]. And I can say that those who led these youth astray were not the youth themselves. Thirty-two lecturers are missing -- they disappeared, they fled. Did they not flee? They say imperialist ["imperialist" in English]. Let them stay with the mother of the "imperialist" in London, stay there and not go to America.

The day before yesterday I said: Why did they not go to Moscow? They do not go there because they are afraid. They (?know) the government there is not one to play with. Now they sleep (?there) and (?play about). Our people, the citizens, believe in justice. We do not want to spoil anybody. I gave these youths sufficient freedom. And I said at that time I pardon them. Today I want to add: although a human being is not good. [sentence as heard] And I say that my clemency (?applies) to them.

I say: The 16 students can take their examinations in the university. [applause] They can report to the registrar of the university tomorrow. If a person does anything to harm small children, there will be no mercy. We pursue our affairs through the court and so forth. We have taken no short cuts, we have not done anything. And I hope our countrymen approve of these matters.

MEASURES TO LIMIT GOVERNMENT SPENDING ANNOUNCED

EA042228 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] The government has announced that it will reduce its expenditure on recurrent and development accounts for the remaining [as heard] financial year in a bid to limit its spending to manageable levels. Speaking at a press conference today, the minister for foreign affairs, [as heard] Mr Arthur Magugu, also announced that the government will increase its resources devoted to revenue collection activities. Mr Magugu, who was flanked by the minister for economic planning and development, Mr Zachary Onyonka, said that the government will secure short and long-term financing from non-bank financial institutions and parastatal bodies.

The minister further revealed that only top priority projects will go on as planned, while spending on other projects will be slowed down. He added that while the move will affect contractors and suppliers, their cooperation is very necessary in order to keep top priority projects going. Mr Magugu said that although the budget-tightening process will affect the economy, the government is determined to ensure that the burden is shared equally. Mr Magugu said that because of the uncertainty of the budgetary outcome during the remaining financial year ending 30 June and for the next 3 years it would be necessary for members of the public to increasingly share the cost of providing social services. He called on Wananchi [citizens] to demonstrate their confidence in the government by supporting the measures designed to close the budgetary deficit by June this year.

SOMALIA

RADIO HALGAN: FIRST DFSS CONGRESS ENDS

EA032245 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] The first congress of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] has ended.

On the first of this month the general congress concluded its debates and other deliberations on the DFSS' defense, politics, and economic programs. The general congress passed the resolutions on the DFSS' political, defense, and economic plans. Radio Halgan will give you details of the outcome of the first DFSS congress in the coming days.

RADIO HALGAN REPORTS BARRE TROOPS MUTINY

EA041631 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] The current tension in the (Mudugh) and (Ghel Gudut) regions, where there are confrontations between the Somali communists, instigated by the dictatorial Mohamed Siad Barre regime, is now out of hand.

Reports confirm that units of the Somali Armed Forces who were sent to the troubled regions have now mutinied, while others have deserted their bases. The reports add that the mutinies and defections of soldiers and their officers are caused by the divisive and confrontational policies practiced by dictator Mohamed Siad Barre. The reports add that the mutinying soldiers have now been surrounded by forces still taking their orders from dictator Barre.

Reports reaching us from (Mudugh) and (Ghel Gudut) say that Siad Barre's regime is now carrying out mediation attempts to defuse the tension in the area: Delegations loyal to the regime quartered at (El Dere) village near (Dusa Mareb) in (Ghel Gudut) region are now frantically attempting to defuse the tension. But the reports describe this move by dictator Barre as counterproductive since he himself has created the confrontations between the Somali communities. It is reported that over 120 people have died.

Clashes With Barre Troops

EA061645 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] The Third General Gabayreh Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces launched an attack on bases of the troops still loyal to the Barre regime in (Bai) region at the beginning of this month.

Reports reaching us from the Third General Gabayreh Division of the DFSS forces say that in the engagement the fighters destroyed a Fiat vehicle carrying troops loyal to the Barre regime, killing most of the soldiers on board and destroying military equipment on the vehicle. Among the soldiers who died in the attack were Lieutenant (Abdi Goni) and Corporal (Ahmad Farah). The two who died were from the National Security Service of the Mogadishu regime. Three other soldiers were wounded in the attack.

The reports add that those troops still loyal to the Barre regime and stationed in (Gedo), (Bai) and the two (Juba) regions are stealing animals from herders. Tension is high in those regions between the herders and the oppressive agents of Barre's regime.

CHAD

LIBYAN-BACKED OUEDDEI FORCES CAPTURE TOWN

OW070414 Hong Kong AFP in English 0355 GMT 9 Mar 83

[Text] Lome, March 7 (AFP) -- Libyan-backed rebels supporting ousted Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei have captured the town of Ounuanga Kibir, a strategic point on the road between Libya and Chad, from the forces of Chadian President Hissein Habre, the rebels' radio heard here, said Sunday. The "Voice of Liberation," broadcasting from the northern Chad town of Bardai, in the Tiebesti region, said the fall of Ounuanga Kibir, some 200 kms (125 miles) northeast of Faya-Largeau, on Friday was proof of the "fighting strength of the National Liberation Army."

An aide of Mr Goukouni, (Facho Balam) told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Cotonou that President Habre's forces had been "heavily defeated" on February 20 when they tried to take the town of Guouro, the most advanced position of the Goukouni forces ensconced in northern Chad and 150 kms (100 miles) north of Faya-Largeau. (Mr Goukouni's rebel regime is based in Bardai).

GABON

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CABINET ANNOUNCED 7 MAR

AB070804 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 7 Mar 83

[Excerpts] A joint meeting of the Central Committee and the National Assembly took place on 4 March. Many constitutional changes were made, including the appointment of the prime minister, head of government, and the appointment of the three deputy prime ministers. A number of decrees were issued on these appointments. The first decree appoints the deputy prime ministers:

First Deputy Prime Minister	Georges Rawiri
Second Deputy Prime Minister	Etienne Guy Mouvagha-Tchioba
Third Deputy Prime Minister	Emile (Kassa-Mapki)

On the proposal of the prime minister, head of the government, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the republic and head of state, signed a decree modifying the composition of the government, as follows:

-- Prime Minister, Head of Government	Leon Mebiame
-- First Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of the Deputyship of the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of Land and Railroad Transportation and Public Relations	Georges Rawiri
-- Second Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Mines and Petroleum	Eitenna Guy Mouvagha-Tchioba
-- Third Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Reform of State and Mixed Economy Enterprises	Emile (Kassa-Mapki)
-- Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	Martin Bongo
-- Minister of State, Minister of Preservation of Domain, Registration, Urbanism and Housing	Henri Minko
-- Minister of State, Secretary General of the Presidency [passage indistinct]	Rene Radembino-Coniquet

GHANA

RAWLINGS' INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS 6 MAR

AB060652 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Speech by Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of Ghana's Provisional National Defence Council, on Ghana's 26th independence anniversary -- live]

[Text] [Greets the nation in five main local languages] -- Countrywomen and men, good morning to you. The agitation which brought the Gold Coast to nationhood began long before that memorable day of 6 March 1957. Great names such as John Mensah Sarbah, Kobina Sekyi, Archie Casely-Hayford, Pa Grant, Dr J.B.D. Danquah, and many more sought to be remembered today. They struggled sometimes at considerable risks and sacrifices to free our country from colonial domination and the shackles of imperialism. The battles were fought on many fields -- legal, political, civil, and economic. They became more intense after the Second World War of 1939-1945. A clear political movement began to form after the disturbances in 1948. For the first time in a political cause, colonial subjects of the Gold Coast were killed by the imperial power. The provocations arising out of the killings filled the momentum of the civil rebellion against white rule, while at the same time a political leadership took form. Among these leaders were Pa Grant, Dr J.B. Danquah, Dr Kwame Nkrumah, Ako Agyei, Akuffo Addo, Obetsebi Lamptey, and William Ofori Atta.

Rivalries and animosities among political parties sharpened as the country grew older. These were not in the form of healthy competition in which one party in power strove to do its best so that the electorate might reelect it. Rather, while building its own funds by some dubious means the political party also bought support by providing opportunities for bribery, theft, embezzlement, and trade malpractices. Gradually, these were becoming the vogue in our political and social life, where the reward for honesty turned out to be a self-inflicted punishment.

Six March 1957 was a day which held for Ghanaians lots of promise. They were happy, proud, and hopeful, not only because their country was the first in Black Africa south of the Sahara to shake itself free of colonialism but also because by the historical fact of its new status, Ghana has assumed an African leadership. The people of this country were pledged for action to make their country succeed. The foreign policy which the new government pursued immediately after independence especially in Africa advertised our country even more and won us a fount of goodwill throughout the world. But somewhere along the line something went wrong. Our politics and all went sour and our feeling of wellbeing disappeared.

Twenty six years after independence, where does Ghana stand? Again, not long ago, the Ghanaian could hold his head high and push his chest out anywhere in dignity and pride. Today, he is treated with suspicion and contempt. What happened? Who did that to us? Who do we blame? None, but ourselves. I am sure that the earlier fighters for freedom did not seek to replace colonialism with political and economic irresponsibility, moral decay, and a spiritual blackout. There is no doubt that they realized the potential of the people of this country, that if the Gold Coast became independent it could create a nation worthy of admiration. We cannot forget that before 31 December 1981, many efforts of various kinds had been made to put Ghana back on track, and to realize those aspirations of our forerunners. One government after another has been deposed by force of arms, constitutions have been written and rewritten, administrative and legal innovations have not been wanting. Yet none of it had the effect of correcting much or anything until finally, 4 June [1979] followed by 31 December [1981] revolution came to give a new hope to a dispirited country.

In many circles, the revolution had been idealized from the very onset. There was a feeling that all difficulties would soon be solved. All of a sudden everything that had been stagnating for so many years could be changed almost overnight. There was great optimism in new human structural relationships created for mass participation. That any revolutionary process necessarily creates a lot of problems was not clearly understood since it involves a radical reappraisal of values. Many might have thought that the mere introduction of a new human relationship structures would automatically create a new mentality. Disappointed by the slow growth of a new mentality, and shocked by moves toward a return to the former status quo, some panicked and felt disgusted at the slow pace of events. They became overwhelmed by the discovery of two opposite poles operating at the same time -- a demand from the bottom for a rigorous implementation of promises made and a starving claiming to power by some of the former privileged minority. Emotionally, many refused to look at this process as one to be expected and to be dealt with tactfully.

For them, any balancing act would be considered as a betrayal of the revolution. The fear of losing what they have been fighting and waiting for make some of them place their faith in dogmatic ideologies evolved in societies different from our own. I would like to express the sincerity of some who are inspired by their close relationship to the people and the quality of awareness they have been able to create.

We might have to take a closer look at one aspect of these revolutionaries' own lives. Some might have experienced in their own lives or that of their families the nefarious effects of oppressive structures: farm lands taken away from their parents, forced migration experiences, a decay in tribal and social relations, etc, etc. For these, any excuse or demand for understanding and tact work like oil or fuel on fire. It infuriated and enraged them and they might have felt deceived. They were not ready for any compromise.

We must not, we cannot, ignore the fact that the revolution has to accommodate a range of views and opinions. While we shall never compromise our principles, we must at the same time keep open the doors of dialogue in an atmosphere of frankness. Suspicion and distrust of those who do not always think identically with us will not help the revolutionary process. All those whose goal is to secure a just society should be united by that goal and not divided by bickering over the exact path to take.

The revolution has broken with the old order and organs of power have been set up which aim at a greater participation of the people in a democratic process. We want to make it clear that we are not at war with any persons or group of persons. Our revolution is against crime and injustice. There shall be neither truce nor compromise. The problems confronting this country are legion. They are self-induced, either because we have helped to bring them about or we have not helped to prevent them.

One of the weapons we introduced to do the battle of both correction and creation was the People's and Workers Defense Committee [PDC's and WDC's]. I have many times on different occasions and at different places pointed out the weaknesses in the structures which have come with the revolution and of course condemned the excesses. I know that much of the mischief was caused or provoked by certain persons in pursuit of objectives that were not the same as those of the revolution. Some of it was also the result of overenthusiasm by people who have regained their freedom after long years of suppression and deprivation. There is one point that must be made clear to all today. Every Ghanaian is a member of the PDC or WDC. Anyone serving on the actual Executive Committee of this movement does not have the right to exercise power exclusive of the rest of the community. His action as a committee member should reflect the wishes of people; otherwise, he must be replaced on the committee.

We know that some executives have overstepped their bounds, while at the same time giving the impression that they have the backing of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] and that they are not subject to the laws of the country. These are outrageous claims and must be dealt with firmly. I must again congratulate the defense committees which have distinguished themselves with service and sacrifice. A good leader must lead by service, not by rhetoric and terror; deeds not words are what are needed now.

Fellow countrymen, another subject which needs talking about on this important day is that of the mass media. The national newspapers, the radio, and television have allowed their overenthusiasm and oversimplified ideological ideas of a minority of their personnel to create a misleading image of the revolution in the minds of people at home and abroad. Adverse comments on the revolution have been met by defensive invectives instead to critical analysis. Wholesale condemnation of groups or countries not sympathetic to the government has been common, whilst other groups and countries have been uncritically presented as models for Ghana to follow. These trends in the media are the result of the lack of judgement of some journalists who had taken advantage of the freedom allowed them. Some members of the public have lost confidence in the media because of what they see as a prejudiced approach. But they should respond; they should react and make their opinions known, instead of assuming that they cannot change it. They should use their defense committees to speak out for and build the kind of media that they want, as I am doing here today this morning. The committees are yours. Please speak and act through them.

Countrymen, purge yourselves of your fears and inhibitions and be free. I assure you all that anyone in this country who has not committed crimes against the people and has no intention of doing so is among the freest, the most liberated, people anywhere on earth. As I have said already, the problems we face in this country today are seemingly intractable. That is not the way I see them, if the professionals, men and women of religion, chiefs, the lodges, and everyone will break out of their insulating worlds and shells, to give the nation a push. Ghanaians must serve their country with the same zeal with which they have either worked for foreign countries or seen other nationals work for their nations. I wish also to appeal to market women, traders, employers, transport owners, landlords, and all others who sell goods and services that they have a duty to live part of their lives also for their fellow men, for their nation. It is only by so doing that they too will be able to live free from fear.

There are many lessons to be learned from the expulsion of aliens from any country. In our case, we need to learn even more. Immediately, we must see and know that no country will provide us with a better and safer home than our own. Therefore, we should all shed our prejudices and identify ourselves with the causes of Ghana in this revolution and give up our best to make it hospitable to ourselves and our children.

My fellow countrymen, I know and you know that there is animosity in the air. People have exercised power without authority and have most often not taken responsibility for the adverse effects. The media have contributed in no small measure to a misunderstanding of our aims. Lack of tires to transport food from the productive areas to the parasitic cities has also created food shortages. Bush fires and unproductive mouths have also consumed the little that there is. My brothers and sisters, we shall all have to work hard to put things right.

I cannot end this morning's broadcast without acknowledging the maturity and tolerance of the majority of our productive citizens, workers, soldiers especially, and policemen who have exercised a great deal of restraint, while the loud disrespectful elements in our midst have kept us marking time, simply because of their ignorance and inactivity.

In some other cases, our progress has been retarded by the kind of Ghanaian who is born with the Ph.D. pulling down. [as heard] Anyone who raises himself above the rest is to be brought down. These actions, I know have cost the nation a great deal. I know it has contributed to the building up of tension in several areas of economic activity and areas that rely on a lot of discipline. I know it has led to the decline of efficiency, but I sincerely hope that we have all learned our lessons. The time has now come for all of us to make a positive response in our various fields of activity. We have to rise up to the mobility of the nation's call.

The revolutionary process in which we are now involved is like planting a tree. The sweat and the digging are activities we have to undertake today without any expectation of material reward tomorrow, not so soon. The rewards lie in the future. Without faith in the future, nobody plants a tree or undertakes a revolution. Thank you very much.

NIGERIA

IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL ON REGISTRATION OF ALIENS

AB041012 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Text] An assistant director of immigration, Alhaji Maman, said that about 41 aliens have so far registered with the immigration department in Abuja. He said at the new federal capital that 29 persons have been issued with registration certificates out of those registered. The assistant director said that most of those who registered were from ECOWAS member states.

Alhaji Maman said that it was erroneous to believe that the registration of aliens expired at the end of last month, adding that it was a continous exercise. He urged those yet to be registered to do so.

SENEGAL

SUPREME COURT ISSUES FINAL ELECTION RESULTS

AB051414 Paris AFP in French 1314 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Dakar, 5 Mar (AFP) -- Senegalese head of state Abdou Diouf has been proclaimed the winner of the 27 February presidential elections by the Supreme Court, the body charged with the supervision of the elections.

According to a decree issued on Saturday, election results are as follows:

Registered voters:	1,928,257
Votes cast:	1,093,244
Invalid votes:	4,169
Valid votes:	1,089,075
Abdou Diouf:	908,879
Abdoulaye Wade:	161,067
Oumar Wone:	2,146
Mamadou Dia:	15,150
Majhemout Diop:	1,833

The Supreme Court rejected an appeal filed by Majhemout Diop on the color of the ballot paper.

Opposition Wants New Elections

AB060820 Paris AFP in English 0720 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Dakar, March 6 (AFP) -- Senegal's main opposition party, which won only eight out of 120 seats in last week's parliamentary and presidential elections, called Saturday for a new poll under impartial supervision and accused the ruling Socialist Party of President Abdou Diouf of having "pulled off a civilian electoral coup d'etat."

In a communique "rejecting totally and definitively" the election results, the Senegalese Democratic Party, led by Abdoulaye Wade, reiterated that it would boycott the new Parliament and would not recognize any government formed as a result of the elections. The party said it would take its charges of electoral fraud to the Supreme Court and declared its support for peaceful protest against the government over the election.

President Diouf and his party were officially declared winners of the Feb 27 election Saturday, with 11 1/2 parliamentary seats and 85 percent of the votes.

UPPER VOLTA

OFFICIALS REFUSE COMMENT ON COUP PLOT REPORT

AB071211 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 7 Mar 83

[Text] Ouagadougou March 7 (AFP) -- Upper Voltan authorities refused to confirm or deny a newspaper report today that several Army officers had been arrested last week following the discovery of a coup plot. The privately owned newspaper L'OBSERVATEUR said that 19 people had been arrested on the night of March 2 as the coup attempt was about to be launched, but it did not identify any of those involved. The report said that the coup had originally been planned for February 28, date of the opening of the General Assembly of the ruling People's Salvation Council (CSP), but has been postponed due to the delayed return of Prime Minister Thomas Sankara from a visit to Libya.

The CSP has ruled Upper Volta since Sergeant-Major Jean-Baptise Ouedraaogo overthrew the regime of Colonel Saye Zerbo on November 7.

BOTSWANA

NEARLY 1,000 ZIMBABWEANS IN DUKWE REFUGEE CAMP

NC051708 Paris AFP in English 1651 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Johannesburg, March 5 (AFP) -- Nearly 1,000 Zimbabwean refugees who fled from western Matabeleland have setteled in Dukwe refugee camp in northeastern Botswana, which Zimbabwe claims is a military training base for Zimbabwean dissidents, THE STAR newspaper reported here today. The report, by a South African journalist who went to the camp, said the village was "a far cry" from the overcrowded military camp Zimbabwe claimed it to be. Some 97 refugees were living in the camp before the latest influx of Zimbabweans.

Camp Commander E. Madibela denied that military training was taking place and claimed he had never seen refugees training "even with sticks". He said most of the people in the camp were children adding: "How is it possible they can engage in such things?" Botswana has assured Zimbabwe that it would not allow the Dukwe refugees and those in Selebi Pikwe camp in eastern central Botswana to launch attacks from its soil.

The Botswana Government last week indicated that it would tighten control in the refugee camps by issuing identity cards and taking occasional roll calls to check absenteeism.

LESOTHO

PRIME MINISTER DECLARES FOOD EMERGENCY

MB041548 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0508 GMT 4 Mar 83

[Statement by Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] My countrymen:

In the past several months, Lesotho has experienced a severe drought, which has already affected very seriously our estimated crop yield for this season. The drought is also posing a great threat to our livestock. The present drought is part of the general situation prevailing in southern Africa, and indications are that it will continue for some time to come.

According to a survey made by our minister of agriculture, all the districts of Lesotho are going to suffer a shortfall in grain production due to the drought. This situation is going to be exacerbated by the fact that we are already dependent on food imports. Whereas our total requirements would be 307,828 metric tons of grains and pulses, our projected production is only going to be 50,638 metric tons. This means an alarming shortfall of 257,190 metric tons. Similarly, (?rainfall) has deteriorated very sharply, and the continuation of the current situation will lead to serious water shortage and further depreciation of grazing for our livestock.

It is clear that our country will be in danger for a very long time to come, and I am therefore declaring that there is a state of national food emergency. Under the circumstances, we will need a great deal of assistance, and to this end the government will enter into immediate consultations with friendly countries and international organizations to request assistance in order to be able to cope with the effects of the drought. We have in the past received generous assistance from them, and I am hopeful that they will come to our rescue in the present situation, which threatens to be worse than those we have had in the past.

MOZAMBIQUE

MAPUTO REPORTS SOVIET-MOZAMBIQUE COMMUNIQUE

EA062200 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Mozambique and the USSR have decided to redouble their efforts for greater promotion and strengthening of relations between the Frelimo Party and the CPSU, based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. This was said in a joint communique issued today following the official friendly visit by President Samora Machel to the USSR. The communique added that at the talks the two sides unanimously agreed that relations between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the USSR, based on the treaty of friendship and cooperation, are being constantly promoted and consolidated in the interests of both countries and the peace and security of peoples.

The two countries condemned the continuing occupation of Angolan territory by South African troops, and demanded their immediate and unconditional withdrawal.

Mozambique and the USSR reiterated their firm support for the struggle of the South African people under the leadership of ANC [African National Congress] for total liquidation of the apartheid system.

The Soviet side reaffirmed its support for the frontline states in their struggle for total liberation of southern Africa.

The Mozambique-Soviet communique said that the two countries stressed the threat to all peace-loving peoples posed by increased U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean, and reaffirmed their support for the proposal to transform this ocean into a peaceful nonnuclear zone.

It will be recalled that during the presidential visit to the USSR, a cultural and scientific cooperation agreement was signed between the two countries. The agreement concerns the broadening of relations in the fields of culture, education, and book publication.

ZIMBABWE

AFP REVIEWS SITUATION IN MATABELELAND

NC051511 Paris AFP in English 1452 GMT 5 Mar 83

[By Jean-Michel Stoullig]

[Text] Harare, March 5 (AFP) -- Tough repression by the Zimbabwean Army against dissidents and villages in the country's western provinces has begun to be criticized--although discreetly -- by independent organisations. The government crackdown launched in January in northern Matabeleland provoked increased ethnic tension and an end to the discussions between Zimbabwe's two main rival parties, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's ZANU and opposition leader Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU.

The Fifth Brigade, entirely made up of Shonas, Zimbabwe's majority ethnic group, was sent into Matabeleland to end the activity by dissidents in the area. The dissidents--renegade guerrillas who formerly served in Mr Nkomo's wartime army -- have been held responsible for a number of killings, robberies and kidnappings in the past year but have been protected by the local population. The army today cordoned off the black townships of Bulawayo, the Matabeleland provincial capital, reportedly searching for dissidents.

A growing number of concurring reports indicate that more than 1,000 civilians of the minority Ndebele people have been killed by the soldiers since January. In addition, food aid has been cut off in villages suspected of harbouring dissidents, in spite of the worsening drought and famine. On Wednesday, representatives of 12 foreign aid organisations met with Mr Mugabe to express their concern and to study ways of "lessening the suffering of the people," according to a source close to the delegation. But to date, the government has not released a single report by the international or religious aid organisations dealing with the recent situation in Matabeleland.

Western diplomats privately said that Zimbabwe could lose its privileged status for aid which it has enjoyed since independence in 1980. One American diplomat said that the "atmosphere will not be excellent" when the United States Congress discusses sending 15 million dollars in aid to Zimbabwe.

Former white Prime Minister Garfield Todd said on Thursday in the Senate that the government had chosen the correct military solution against the dissidents. "The dissidents must be eliminated, but I do not agree with brutality against the people," he said. The former prime minister was placed under house arrest in the 1970's by the Ian Smith government for his support of black nationalists.

A source close to the government said that Mr Mugabe himself took the decision to send in the Fifth Brigade, as the regular army -- comprising members of Mr Nkomo's former ZIPRA force -- had been unable to locate six foreign tourists captured by the dissidents last July. The source said that the government could no longer afford to appear impotent against the dissidents, who were acting with impunity in Matabeleland, and who killed 14 people during the Christmas holidays alone. But the source said he was confident that if Mr Mugabe learned that the soldiers were abusing their power, he would end the operation.

The crackdown has ended the discreet but high-level contacts between ZAPU and ZANU, which broke off when the Fifth Brigade was sent to Matabeleland, provoking charges by Mr Nkomo that the army was indiscriminately killing civilians in the area, which is his political stronghold. Observers noted that Mr Mugabe's ZANU is hoping to create a one-party staff in Zimbabwe, and are aiming to split ZAPU by appealing to the Ndebele over their leader's head.

The observers said that the government's latest move sprang from political rather than tribal motives. Rivalry between the Ndebele and Shona Tribes has been watered down by a number of factors, according to a ZAPU official, who pointed out that several Cabinet ministers belong to ZAPU even though Mr Nkomo was sacked from the government a year ago. But the majority of the ZAPU electorate are Ndebele while most ZANU voters are Shona, and reports from witnesses in Matabeleland said that villagers have been ill-treated by the soldiers for ethnic reasons.

Bulawayo Military Operation

AB050942 Paris AFP in English 0925 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, March 5 (AFP) -- Zimbabwean soldiers this morning cordoned off the populous black townships of Bulawayo, capital of the southwestern Matabeleland Province where troops have been accused of killing civilians in the past month. The Army's North Korean-trained 5th Brigade has been carrying out operations in Matabeleland against "dissidents" -- renegade guerrillas formerly loyal to opposition leader Joshua Nkomo -- and residents said the soldiers surrounding the townships wore the red beret of the 5th.

But it could not immediately be confirmed that the cordon units were from the 5th Brigade, which Mr Nkomo has accused of waging a "tribal war" against the Ndebele people of the southwest. The 5th is mainly Shona, the majority ethnic group of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. Residents said the soldiers had not started house-to-house searches by mid-morning, but were turning back all traffic trying to reach downtown Bulawayo from the western suburbs where 400,000 low and middle-income blacks live. People were being told to go home, stay there and leave their doors unlocked.

It was the second time in nine months the Army had surrounded Bulawayo's townships in their hunt for dissidents, last June and July, soldiers of the now-disbanded anti-dissident task force spent two weeks occupying the townships and searching house to house before they decamped. There was no immediate official statement about the goals of the new operations, but observers noted that hundreds of refugees from rural Matabeleland have flocked into Bulawayo since reports of indiscriminate killing of hundreds of civilians began to filter out more than a month ago.

Speculation had been widespread that the Army would move into Bulawayo to hunt for dissidents and "dissident supporters" who either live in the city or fled there from the countryside. An aide to Mr Nkomo, whose house is in the Pelandaba township, one of those affected, said by telephone that there was no security force presence around the house by mid-morning.

Mr Nkomo was at home. He is obliged to notify policy every time he leaves the house, under terms of an order served on him one week ago because of the investigation into possible charges against him arising from his publicizing the atrocity allegations, and into a trip abroad he intended to make last month until he was stopped by airport officials.

More on Military Operation

MB060835 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 6 Mar 83 p 1

[SUNDAY TIMES special correspondent]

[Excerpts] Bulawayo was a city under siege yesterday as troops of Zimbabwe's dreaded Fifth Brigade sealed off the western townships. It was the first time the red-bereted troops -- responsible for killing hundreds of civilians in Matabeleland -- had been seen inside Zimbabwe's second largest city. Sources said that in the Luveve township the North Korean-trained soldiers had ordered all males over the age of 12 into trucks and then driven them away.

The Fifth Brigade, acting under orders from Mr Robert Mugabe's Cabinet in the capital of Harare, were said to be searching for anti-government dissidents and their weapons. Reporters trying to reach the western suburbs of the city were firmly turned away at Army roadblocks surrounding the area.

A ZAPU [Zimbabwe African People's Union] MP, Mr Sidney Mulunga, was arrested at his Bulawayo home by CID officers. His wife said no reason had been given for his arrest.

ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo, whose home is in Pelandaba in the cordoned off area, was unavailable for comment. An aide said he was ill and a doctor had ordered him to stay in bed.

ZAPU sources confirmed that a party provincial chairman, Mr C.Z. Moyo, had also been arrested by CID officers at his Bulawayo home. His wife has been allowed to visit him at Bulawayo central police station.

An American TV news team which tried to enter the sealed-off suburbs yesterday was detained together with hundreds of other people at a roadblock.

Reporter Jim Hickey managed to get away and send a message to Harare. He said the soldiers told him he "must wait until what must be done is done". The team were later released, but have gone back to try and film again.

ZAPU Provincial Chairman Detained

MB051326 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] In Zimbabwe, two senior members of Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU [Zimbabwe African People's Union] party have been detained by the police. Their arrest coincides with the house-to-house search by the Army in the townships of Bulawayo which have been sealed off by the Army since dawn:

[Begin report by unnamed correspondent] ZAPU MP Sydney Malunga was arrested at his Bulawayo home by CID officers. His wife said no reason was given for his arrest. Mr Malunga was the first ZAPU MP to allege during a parliamentary session in late January that the notorious Fifth Brigade troops were killing civilians. A few days later, the security minister said Mr Malunga was one of the leaders of an alleged ZAPU war council. The ZAPU provincial chairman for Matabeleland, Mr C.Z. Moyo, was also arrested by CID officers this afternoon at his Bulawayo home.

At a political rally in Matabeleland yesterday, Cabinet Minister Enos Nkala said ZAPU should be liquidated. [end report]

Umtata: Nkomo's Chauffeur Killed

MB061348 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Zimbabwe soldiers have shot and killed one of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo's chauffeurs. That's the claim from Nkomo aides who say government troops shot (Yena Nkobe) while he was still in bed. Aides and neighbors have told reporters that troops have also shot dead 25-year-old (Dikiza Ndlovu), who had been reported as living 100 m from Nkomo's home in Phalandaba in Bulawayo.

Nkomo aides said soldiers who ransacked Nkomo's home in search for arms yesterday also smashed the windscreens of cars and [word indistinct] a bus.

Still in Zimbabwe, security sources say up to a thousand people may have been detained in Bulawayo's black townships. They say the arrests had taken place during a drive by government soldiers against anti-government rebels and illegal weapons. Troops and police are combing the Matabeleland Province capital for the second day today.

According to security forces, there's no suggestion that opposition Zimbabwe African People's Union leader Joshua Nkomo has been detained. Nkomo vanished last night from his suburban Bulawayo home, which was searched yesterday.

Nkomo Reportedly With Friends

LD062152 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Latest reports from Harare indicate that the Zimbabwean opposition leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo, is safe, well and resting with friends in Bulawayo. Mr Nkomo disappeared yesterday shortly before government troops and police ransacked his home and killed his driver.

A senior aide to Mr Nkomo said the ZAPU [Zimbabwe African People's Union] party leader had no plans to leave Bualwayo. The aide said two senior party members, Mr (Sidney Malunga), who is a member of Parliament, and Mr (Caanan Moyo), who is the party's provincial chairman for Matabeleland, were arrested in the security forces' search operation in Bulawayo.

The search operation came to an end this evening with as many as 1,000 people detained. The Zimbabwean Government said the operation was an essential part of the campaign against dissidents. It was expected that most of the detained people would be released soon.

MINISTER CALLS FOR LIQUIDATION OF ZAPU

MB050746 Harare Deomstic Service in English 0400 GMT 5 Mar 83

[Text] The minister of national supplies, Comrade Nkala, says the Zimbabwe African People's Union [ZAPU] must be liquidated because it is supporting the infrastructure of the dissidents. Addressing a rally at Chinotimba Stadium in Victoria Province yesterday, Comrade Nkala said ZAPU as a political party has refused to accept the government's policy of reconciliation and has decided to support dissidents. He said the only choices open to ZAPU are either to support the government and live peacefully or to go to war with the government.

The minister said there is so much outcry about the presence of the Fifth Brigade in Matabeleland [as heard]. ZAPU invited the war, and they must not complain when the war is in the area. Comrade Nkala said: We have never heard any ZAPU voice condemning dissidents and their activities in the area before, but now that the Fifth Brigade is here at their invitation, they are complaining. He warned ZAPU councillors who preached subversive statements against the government that they will face the axe of the law. The minister said councillors enjoy government protection, and receive money from the government. They are elected to tell the truth and not to confuse the people.

Speaking at the same meeting, the minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for security, Comrade Munangagwa, said ZAPU supporters will receive protection from the government if they oppose the dissidents. Comrade Munangagwa said the Fifth Brigade will stay in dissident infected areas until all the unlawful elements and bandits are wiped out. He said the government is achieving major successes in routing out dissidents and bandits.

The minister of trade and commerce, Comrade Hove, told the rally that inspectors from his ministry will visit the town next week to check on prices, markups, and the distribution of goods. He said national prices of soft drinks and Chibuku beer will be announced next week. His assurance came after he was told by residents in the towns that local businessmen are charging exorbitant prices for Korean rice, maize meal, sugar, and many other items.

ZAPU Officials Arrested

MB070948 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 7 Mar 83

[Text] There has been confirmation from the government of the arrest of five senior ZAPU party officials. National Supplies Minister Enos Nkala says the five officials were arrested in the southern town of Beit Bridge along the Zimbabwe border with South Africa. The national news agency quotes Nkala as saying the ZAPU officials had been recruiting young black Zimbabweans for military training in South Africa. Nkala has also issued a warning to aliens who support ZAPU that the government would have them deported.

NKOMO CONTENDS MUGABE TRIED TO KILL HIM

AB070740 Paris AFP in English 0718 GMT 7 Mar 83

[Text] Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, March 7 (AFP) -- Zimbabwe's minority leader Joshua Nkomo charged here yesterday that Prime Minister Robert Mugabe had given orders to kill him. He said the murder was to have taken place during a search of his suburban home here on Saturday, during which his chauffeur had been shot dead. Mr Nkomo was not in the house at the time of the raid, which was part of a massive sweep by police and troops in search of anti-government dissidents in Bulawayo, capital of Mr Nkomo's Matabele people. The minority leader spoke to journalists at a house in the east of the city. He said he would return to his home in a western suburb shortly.

"Mugabe sent people to kill me and my family," he said. "We got out in time. The search for arms this weekend was a cover to come and kill me." Mr Nkomo appealed indirectly to the non-aligned nations summit in New Delhi, which Mr Mugabe is attending, to make the prime minister see reason. "Although the conference should not interfere in the internal affairs of Zimbabwe, with international meetings like this one, the prime minister will realise his obligations," he said.

Referring to the drive by Mr Mugabe's troops in Matabeleland to crush dissident ex-Nkomo guerrillas, during which more than a thousand civilians have reportedly been killed, he appealed to Mr Mugabe "to see that this murder of innocent people stops." Mr Nkomo, who founded the country's first nationalist movement against white rule, said he felt "hopeless" at having "reached this stage for a man who has fought for independence for 35 years." He recalled that he had clearly stated that this ZAPU party did not support dissidents or banditry. Mr Mugabe and his government have accused Mr Nkomo of being behind the dissidents and collaborating with South Africa.

The government, he said, was now trying to "destroy ZAPU completely" and had sent agents provocateurs into the countryside disguised as dissidents. He noted that before the current anti-dissident operation by paramilitary police and the Army's North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade, nine members of ZAPU's Central Committee had been murdered.

Mr Nkomo stressed that he would never leave Zimbabwe. "I have no other country except this one."